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WESTERN AMERICANA

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HAND BOOK

TO THE

GOLD FIELDS

OF

NEBRASKA AND KANSAS.

Being a complete

GUIDE TO THE GOLD REGIONS

OF THE

SOUTH PLATTE & CHERRY CREEK.

D. B. COOKE & CO.
CHICAGO.

1859.

Great Northern Route to the Gold Regions

VIA THE

CHICAGO AND ROCK ISLAND

R. R. LINE FROM CHICAGO,

AND THE

PLATTE VALLEY ROUTE FROM COUNCIL BLUFFS.

For persons seeking the most expeditious and pleasant route to the Gold Regions, the above route offers superior inducements in point of time, distance, facilities for procuring outfits, etc., etc.

TWO EXPRESS TRAINS LEAVE CHICAGO DAILY.

RUNNING THROUGH

TO IOWA CITY WITHOUT CHANGE,

CONNECTING WITH

WESTERN STAGE COMPANY'S LINE

OF

MAIL COACHES TO COUNCIL BLUFFS

Then connecting with line now running to Fort Kearney, which will be extended through to the Mines early in the Spring.

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☞ Through Tickets to Iowa City, Council Bluffs, Omaha City and Fort Kearney, can be procured at all principal ticket offices in the United States and Canadas, and at the Company's office at Chicago.

JOHN F. TRACY,
General Superintendent.

W. L. St. JOHN,
General Ticket Agent.

HAND BOOK

TO THE

GOLD FIELDS

OF

NEBRASKA AND KANSAS:

BEING A

COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE GOLD REGIONS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH PLATTE, AND CHERRY CREEK,

EMBRACING

A RELIABLE DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY, CLIMATE, STREAMS, SCENERY, ETC.; DIFFERENT ROUTES FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO THE MINES, THE BEST CAMPING PLACES ON EACH ROUTE, AND A RELIABLE MAP OF THE SAME; AND VALUABLE INFORMATION AS REGARDS A COMPLETE OUTFIT FOR THE JOURNEY:

Containing Narratives of Trips to and from the Gold Region in the Years 1858–59.

By Wm. N. Byers, *Late Government Surveyor,*
AND
Jno. H. Kellom, *Sup't of Pub. Instruction of Nebraska.*

"Gold tempts him from the blandishments of home,
Mountains to climb, and distant seas to roam."

CHICAGO:
PUBLISHED BY D. B. COOKE & CO.
NEW YORK:
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1859.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1859, by
D. B. COOKE & CO.,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Northern District of Illinois.

TO THE READER.

It is not the object of this work to persuade you to go to the recently discovered Nebraska and Kansas Gold Mines, but to lay before you a mass of testimony and information whereby you may be able to make a judicious decision; when, if you decide to go, we propose to assist you by information which will be useful to you in procuring your outfit, and determining the route by which you will travel.

Having been citizens of Nebraska for some years, familiar with the Platte route from personal experience in traveling over it, and being well acquainted with many persons who have recently visited the new mines, some of whom have returned, and from others of whom we have letters, we feel qualified to advise you.

That you may have confidence in *our statements*, and the testimony of others to whom we may introduce you, we are permitted to refer you to the Mayor of Omaha, to the President of the Nebraska Emigration Society, and to all the public officers of the Territory.

B. & K.

BYERS AND KELLOM

The fourth of the Pike's Peak guidebook series to be issued in facsimile with notes by LeRoy Hafen.

August 10, 1949. NOLIE MUMEY.

NOTES

This guidebook, prepared by Nebraska men, was issued with a decided bias in favor of the Platte River route and Nebraska outfitting points. Although most of the reported gold discoveries were in Kansas, this guide lists Nebraska first and Kansas second in its title. All of the six routes detailed, with distances and stopping places, are by way of Fort Kearney and the Platte River.

1 (Title Page, authors). William N. Byers was born in Madison County, Ohio, February 22, 1831, and in 1850 moved with his parents to Iowa. He did surveying in Iowa, Oregon, California, and Nebraska. He served in the lower house of the first Nebraska legislature. Although he had not been to the newly reported gold mines, he had traveled the Platte River route and the Oregon Trail as a surveyor and was therefore able to give practical travel advice and to present good itineraries with accurate distances.

Mr. Byers was soon to become founder of the *Rocky Mountain News*, the first newspaper of the Pike's Peak region, and to win a distinguished place among Colorado pioneers and state builders. In addition to his newspaper interests, he was active in real estate, mining, railroad, telegraph, and agricultural enterprises in Colorado. He died March 26, 1903.

Mr. Kellom, prominent citizen of Omaha and co-author of the guidebook, was born in Washington County, New York, in 1818. He taught school in New York, Georgia, and Nebraska, and after his removal to Omaha in 1856 held various public offices there. In 1880 he went to California, where he engaged in horticulture until his death, in 1891.

2 (Map, page 4). This same map was published in *Harper's Weekly*, April 2, 1859, and with some modifications appeared in the first four or five issues of the *Rocky Mountain News*, which Byers founded in Auraria-Denver on April 23, 1859. The map was also used on a broadside which supplies a table of distances from Omaha to Cherry Creek and gives a list of prices of an outfit and provisions for a trip to the mines.

3 (Page 6, last line). Clement Lambert is listed as a member of the Fremont expedition of 1842, but not of 1843. See J. C. Fremont, *Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains*, etc., 9, 105.

4 (Page 7, paragraph 2). The mountaineers included the Janis brothers and J. B. Provost. They founded Colona, later called La Porte, some five miles northwest of present Fort Collins.

5 (Page 7, paragraph 3). Three Russell brothers—W. G., J. O., and L. J.—were the leaders of the prospecting party. They had mined in the placers of Lumpkin County, northern Georgia.

6 (Page 8, line 10). This was William McKimens, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1835 and moved to Illinois in 1853. He mined and farmed in Colorado until 1864, when he joined the gold rush to Montana. He died there in 1890. A letter similar to the one published here was written by McKimens on November 11, 1858,

and was published in the *Leavenworth Times* of December 18, 1858. For another and fuller account of the Georgia Company by a member of the party, see the Tierney guidebook, previously issued in this series.

7 (Page 12, line 9). General William Larimer was a prominent pioneer of Colorado. See W. H. H. Larimer, *Reminiscences of General William Larimer*, etc.

8 (Page 12, paragraph 3). This statement illustrates the bias of the authors in regard to routes to the mines.

9 (Page 12, paragraph 4). The Cherry Creek and Dry Creek placers, the first discovered, proved to be south of the fortieth parallel and hence in Kansas.

10 (Page 15, line 15). Colonel Thomas L. Kane. See O. O. Winther (Ed.), *A Friend of the Mormons*.

11 (Page 21, paragraph 3). The "Colona Herald" appears never to have materialized.

12 (Pages 21 to 32). Byers' advice on outfit, provisions, etc., is wise and practical, being based on his own travel experience.

13 (Pages 33-40, 42-46). This was the route of the Mormon Trail of 1847, along the north bank of the Platte and its North Fork. See *William Clayton's Journal* (1921); and "The Latter-Day Saints' Emigrants' Guide," reproduced in E. M. Ledyard (Ed.), *A Journal of the Birmingham Emigrating Company*, 137-176.

14 (Pages 40-42). The early trappers first used this trail leading from Fort Laramie to Fort Pueblo, by way of Cherry Creek. For data on Fort Laramie see L. R. Hafen and F. M. Young, *Fort Laramie*, etc.

15 (Page 41, line 9). Colonel P. St. George Cooke led the Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War and wrote accounts of his western experiences.

16 (Page 41, second line from bottom). William Gilpin went with Fremont to Oregon in 1843 and returned the next year by a more southern route through the Rocky Mountains. He became the first governor of Colorado Territory, in 1861.

17 (Page 53, paragraph 5). The post he calls Fort Lancaster was Fort Vasquez, near present Platteville. Lancaster and Lupton were interchangeable names for Fort Lupton, founded by Lancaster P. Lupton.

18 (Page 53, paragraph 6). Jim Sanders, or Saunders, was an early fur trader. The island was later called Henderson Island.

19 (Page 54, paragraph 2). Auraria and Denver were rival towns until 1860, when they were united under the name of Denver.

20 (Page 55, line 9). Old Fort Kearny on the Missouri is not to be confused with Fort Kearny on the Platte. Both were named for General Stephen W. Kearny.

21 (Page 55, paragraph 4). Russell, Majors, and Waddell was the great freighting firm of the West at this time. See Settle, *Empire on Wheels* (1949).

22 (Page 56, paragraph 2). Letters of William W. Hoopes and W. D. McLain are reproduced in L. R. Hafen, *Colorado Gold Rush*, 154, 155.

23 (Page 78, line 4). There is no Leroy Creek in the vicinity

today. The reference was probably to Clear Creek or Ralston Creek, its branch. Both of these had gold-bearing gravel, but hardly so rich as indicated here.

24 (Page 80, line 1). The governor of Kansas was James W. Denver, for whom the town was named.

25 (Page 85, paragraph 1). Both Wynkoop and Steinberger became citizens of Colorado. A biographical account by Wynkoop is preserved in manuscript form in the library of the State Historical Society of Colorado.

26 (Page 88, paragraph 1). Beyond the second ridge they entered South Park, in which James Purcell had found gold in 1805.

27 (Page 89, line 2). Vascar's Fork was Vasquez Creek, present Clear Creek. Gold had been found on Ralston Creek in 1850 by the Cherokee party. See L. R. Hafen, *Pike's Peak Gold Rush Guidebooks of 1859*, 35-37.

28 (Page 90, line 15). Charlie Autobee had a farm near the mouth of Huerfano River (branch of the Arkansas) in 1858.

29 (Page 91, paragraph 2). John Smith, long a trader with the Cheyennes, continued for many years as an interpreter for that tribe. He was with the Cheyennes when they were attacked at Sand Creek in 1864 and his half-Indian son was killed by the troops after the fighting ceased.

30 (Page 91, paragraph 3). McGaa (Jack Jones) was a member of the original Denver Town Company, and his name was given to one of the streets, since changed to Market Street. See one of his letters and some biographical data in L. R. Hafen, *The Colorado Gold Rush*, 206-210.

31 (Page 91, paragraph 4). Antoine and Nicholas Janis (name variously spelled) were mountain traders before the gold discoveries.

32 (Page 96). S. S. Curtis became an early postmaster of Denver. Curtis Street, Denver, was named for him. His letter of November 2, 1858, was published in the *Omaha Republican* and copied in the *Missouri Democrat* of December 4, 1858.

33 (Page 97, last paragraph). This kettle of gold story in the *Kansas Weekly Press* of October 23, 1858, was a complete fabrication.

34 (Page 102, second line from bottom of page). This was John J. Riethmann, later a prominent business man of Denver. This report appeared in the *Council Bluffs Bugle* of November 24, 1858.

35 (Page 104, line 1). Mr. Reed's letter was published in the *Council Bluffs Bugle* of November 24, 1858.

36 (Page 105, line 2). Mr. Miller (John D. was his name) was a member of the Lawrence Party of goldseekers. See his "Reminiscences of Early Days," in *The Trail*, VII, No. 1, pp. 11-19.

37 (Page 107, line 8). This letter was written by William McKimens and was published in the *Leavenworth Times* of December 18, 1858.

38 (Page 108, line 23). Mr. Richard's letter was published in the *Omaha Times* of December 16, 1858.

L. R. HAFEN.

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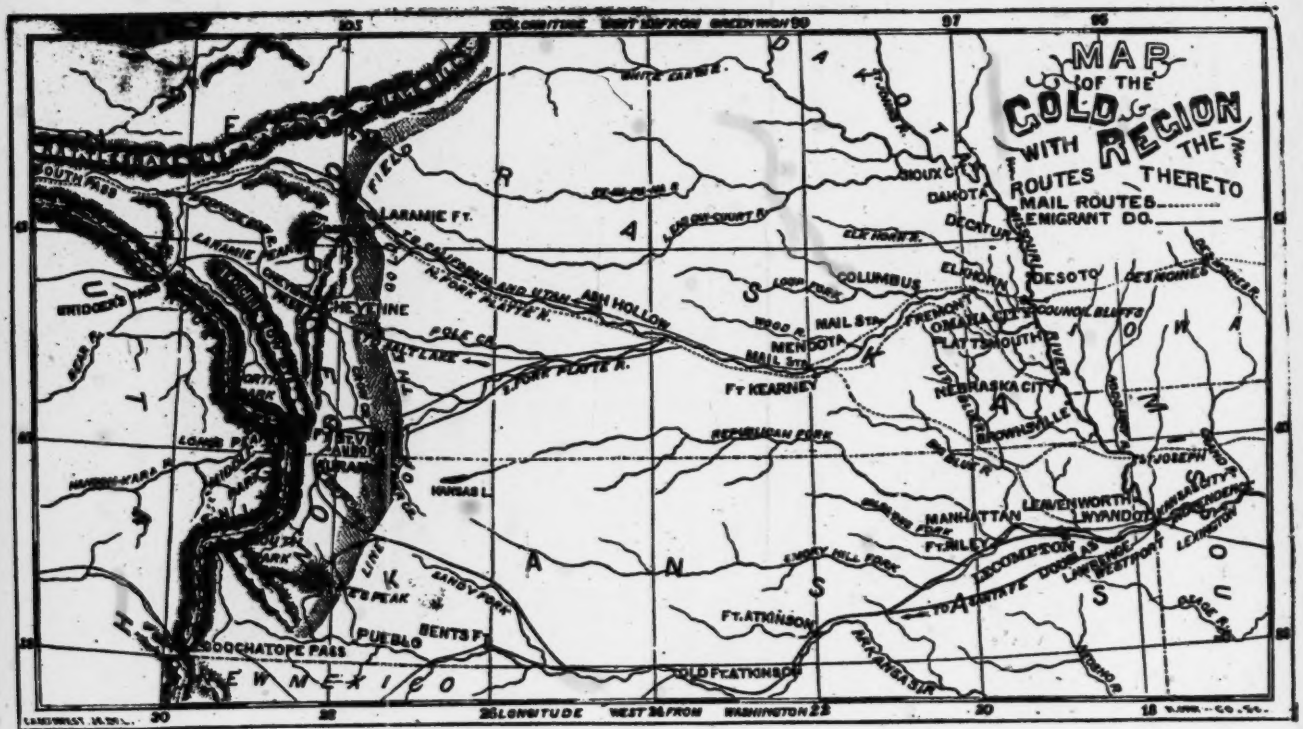
MAP
OF THE
COLD REGION
WITH THE
ROUTES THERETO
MAIL ROUTES
EMIGRANT DO.
LONGITUDE WEST FROM GREENWICH
LONGITUDE WEST FROM WASHINGTON
WHITE EARTH R.
SIOUX CITY
DAKOTA
DECATUR
ELK HORN R.
COLUMBUS
ELKHORN
DESOTO
DES MOINES
LOUP FORK
FREMONT
OMAHA CITY
COUNCIL BLUFFS
PLATTSMOUTH
BLUFFS
MAIL STA.
MENDOTA
MAIL STA.
FT KEARNEY
NEBRASKA CITY
BROWNSVILLE
REPUBLICAN FORK
ST JOSEPH
LEAVENWORTH
WYANDOT
MANHATTAN
FT RILEY
DECATUR
DOUGLAS
LAWRENCE
WESTPORT
LEXINGTON
OSAGE R.
ALTERNATIVE
KANSAS R.
SMOKY HILL FORK
FT ATKINSON
ARKANSAS R.
ARKANSAS
BENTS FT
PUEBLO
COOCHATOPE PASS
NEW MEXICO
SOUTH PASS
LARAMIE FT.
LARAMIE PEAK
BRIDGER'S PASS
FORT LARAMIE
ROCKY RIDGE
NORTH PARK
LONGS PEAK
GREEN R.
COLORADO
GRAND R.
SNAKE R.
BLUE R.
PLATTE R.
POLE CR.
SWEETWATER
SWEETWATER R.
SWEETWATER MTS
SOUTH PASS
SOUTH FORK
NORTH FORK
NORTH PLATTE R.
ASH HOLLOW
SOUTH PLATTE R.
LODGE POLE CR.
BIG SANDY
GREEN R.
LITTLE SANDY
BIG SANDY
GREEN R.
LONGITUDE WEST FROM GREENWICH
LONGITUDE WEST FROM WASHINGTON

NEBRASKA AND KANSAS GOLD FIELDS.

FIRST GOLD FROM CALIFORNIA.

THE first gold news from California found no credit in the Atlantic States—gold stories, in those days, were deemed fables.

Mr. Bennett, of the New York Herald, claims to have received the first pinch of the dust sent from the Pacific to the Atlantic. When presented to the bankers of Wall street, they contemptuously pronounced it "*fool's gold*," or *mica*. Little thought they that this pinch of rejected *mica* was the herald of millions of gold, which the Western El Dorado was to pour into their coffers year after year.

When these scales were subjected to the proper tests, and the golden truth flashed from the crucible of the experimenter, the excitement was intense—the gold fever became epidemic; there was no quiet, no rest. The *auri sacra fames* found no gratification but in a voyage or overland journey to California. On the Pacific coast the excitement was still more intense, and grew from what it

fed on. Houses were deserted, homes broken up, towns depopulated, ships in the harbor forsaken, and armies disorganized.

AUSTRALIA AND FRAZER'S RIVER.

A few years later, and a similar excitement turned the adventurer to the golden shores of Australia.

Still later, nay but a few months since, the Frazer's River excitement drew thousands from the gold fields of California to the dark canons and almost impassable mountains of British Columbia.

SOUTH PLATTE.

Still later, even now while we write, the cool winds from Western Nebraska, come freighted with golden rumors of a fourth El Dorado on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, scarce five hundred miles from the Missouri River.

WHO DISCOVERED THE NEW MINES.

After the discovery of gold on the *western* slope of the Rocky Mountains, analogy and geology suggested a similar deposite on the eastern slope; and as early as 1850, emigrants *en route* to California, experimenting on the sand by the road side, discovered traces of gold. A gentleman now living in Omaha, washed gold on the head waters of the Arkansas river, in 1851. In 1852 it was found on the North Platte by some returning California miners.

Clement Lambert, a companion of Col. Fremont in most

of his explorations, now residing a few miles north of Omaha, told the writer only a few days since, that in 1842 he saw a specimen of gold in the hands of one of the party, near the Devil's Gap, on the Sweet Water, which was "*nearly as big as his fist*," and he was told that it was found in the immediate vicinity.

In 1856, a company of mountaineers prospected over all the region drained by the Forks of the Platte, gathered considerable dust on Cherry Creek, and finally settled on Cache-la-Poudre river, some eight or ten miles north of Fort Saint Vrain, where they still remain, working their mines and keeping their own counsels.

W. G. and J. O. Russell, experienced California and Georgia miners, left the Georgia mines on the ninth day of February, 1858, with the view of prospecting for gold near the head waters of the Platte. In June following, after having explored mountains, hills and creeks with little success, suffering from hunger, heat and fatigue, and after a large part of their company, disgusted and discouraged, had departed for the States, they discovered near Cherry Creek the precious dust, the shining scales for which they long had searched. Over an area of forty miles square they found indications of gold wherever they struck the spade.

This practical discovery was soon published by them and their company to those on the frontiers, and from them the news swept over the land like a prairie fire before the wind.

The Company of the Messrs. Russell, now more familiarly known as the Georgia Company, prospected and mined until October, making from $5 to $15 per day to the man, with very indifferent tools, when the Messrs. Russell left the mines for their southern home, expressing to their friends *en route* their confidence in the value of their discovery, and the belief that what had been seen was but an earnest of what would be revealed when the country was more carefully explored.

The following letter from William McKibben, one of the Georgia Company, which was recently published in the New York Tribune, will interest the reader in this connection:

A MINER'S ACCOUNT.

AURARIA CITY, *South Platte, Nov.* 2, 1858.

On the 13th of May, 1858, your humble servant, in company with eighteen persons from the State of Georgia, started from Leavenworth City, Kansas Territory, to prospect the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains generally, but more particularly the vicinity of the South Platte.

We came to the Arkansas River route and joined on the way a company of Cherokee Indians, consisting of seventy-five men, and a few Missourians, which increased our company to one hundred and four men. After encountering many difficulties we arrived at the Platte on the 23rd of June.

Crossing that river we continued to our particular point of destination, which was a small creek, seven miles north of the Platte, from the banks of which a man of our company, (a Mr. Beck, a Cherokee half-breed,) said he panned in the spring of 1850, as much as $5 worth of the dust to a panfull of gravel. But after prospecting about two weeks, and our best panning being only about

one grain of gold to the pan, the majority of our company became disheartened and were determined to return to their homes.

Accordingly, on the 6th of July we all recrossed the Platte and encamped on its southern bank. All were for returning home except myself and twelve others, eight of whom were from the State of Georgia, one from Iowa, three from Kansas Territory, and the writer from the old Keystone State.

The following morning, being the 7th of July, our home-bound companions took their departure for the States. Our small company then assembling together, concluded to spend the summer prospecting the Platte, Arkansas, and their tributaries, in search of the precious metal.

On the afternoon of the same day, striking our tents, we moved up the River Platte about eight miles, and camped. Some of our men went out in every direction prospecting. Soon Green Russell, Esq., our most experienced miner and leader, arriving in camp, gave us the astounding intelligence that he had discovered a mine where we could realize $15 per day.

Our joy knew no bounds, we hurrahed, whooped and yelled at the prospect of being loaded with gold in a few months, and gave vent to any amount of hisses and groans for our apostate companions that were making all speed for home. We congratulated ourselves, sir, that we inaugurated a new era in the history of our beloved country.

This mine we worked for some two weeks, realizing from $5 to $15 per day. Then we set out on another prospecting tour, and discovered another deposit, somewhat richer than the first. Here our best panning amounted to $3.50 to the pan of gravel, (which is the best panning done on the Platte up to this date,) and from $10 to $20 per day to the hand. We worked this mine some twenty days, when we concluded to set out on another prospecting tour. This tour embraced Cherry Creek, Sand Creek, and their tributaries, on all of which we found more or less gold, our prospecting varying from one to ten cents per pan of gravel in a district forty miles square.

Returning to the Platte, we concluded to prospect the river to its

source at the summit of the Rocky Mountains. Not knowing its length, we only took two days' provisions. Our supplies being exhausted, we were obliged to live on fresh meats, without any salt, for two weeks, at the end of which we returned to the Platte, very much exhausted and emaciated.

After recruiting ourselves for a few days, we discovered a richer deposit, paying from $6 to $10 per day. After working this a few days, we concluded to go north in search of the source of this gold, as it all drifted or floated. About the 1st of September we took up the line of march for the Platte River, which was about two hundred miles distant, prospecting on the way all the creeks, the Black Hills and Medicine Bow Mountains, and realizing from one to three cents per pan of gravel. We were, however, compelled to return on account of the inclemency of the weather, before we could prospect that part of the country as thoroughly as we wished.

Prospecting somewhat on our return, we arrived at the South Platte on or near the 25th of September. In the meantime, the news of our prospecting and discoveries having been spread like wildfire, we were greeted on our arrival by nearly one hundred white men. And you may reasonably surmise that we were overjoyed at meeting them, as we had seen but few white men for the space of six months.

Recruiting ourselves and our teams here a few days, and having exhausted our supplies of provisions, we set out for Fort Garland, in New Mexico, a distance of one hundred and eighty miles, to get a supply for the winter. At that point flour is worth $7.50 per cwt., bacon 20 cents per pound, coffee 25 cents, sugar do., and other articles in proportion. Having concluded our outfitting, we set out on our return, prospecting in the meantime, and getting from one to two cents per pan of gravel, and eventually arrived at the Platte on the 25th of October, where we found three hundred men, and fresh arrivals came in every hour from the States.

These men are principally from Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas, and are the bone and sinew of the countries whence they came. We shall have one thousand men to winter here; and, taking into con-

sideration the prospects of the mines, and the scarcity of money in the States, I can readily suppose that, by the 1st of June, 1859, our population will exceed eighty thousand, and we can then organize a Territory, or State, which will compare favorably with any other in the Union.

The climate is delightful, the scenery beautiful and diversified; soil in the valleys is a black, sandy loam, and very productive; the summer season is warm and pleasant, the winters are about the same as in the Western States. Generally, improvements are going on rapidly in both city and farming business. Where three months ago could only be heard the sharp crack of the rifle, and shrill whoop of the Indian, you now can hear only the sound of the white man's axe, and the pleasant music of the anvil.

Several towns have been laid out, and quite a number of houses have been erected; but one town in particular I shall briefly notice. It is known by the cognomen of *Auraria*, and is situated at the junction of Cherry Creek and the Platte River, and on the great military road leading from the Territories of New Mexico and Southern Kansas to Fort Laramie, Fort Bridger, and all the north-western forts. There are some thirty substantial houses erected in said town, and fifty more rapidly progressing, which the owners intend to have finished this season; also one tin-shop, several black-smith shops, and several stores; and I understand that the proprietors intend having a printing press in operation by the 1st of March, 1859. Are we not a fast people?

I remit you, in this, a small specimen of dust, which I have taken from these mines. Fort Laramie, Nebraska Territory, which is distant about two hundred miles, is our nearest post-office, and we shall have a private express to that point this winter.

PIKE'S PEAK GOLD, A MYTH.

No gold to justify working has been found within 75 miles of Pike's Peak, which is about 80 miles south of Cherry Creek.

Pike's Peak Gold Mines, which heads nearly every gold article in the Southern Kansas papers, is a false guide post to turn the travel through Kansas, when its natural and shortest channel is up the great Platte valley through Nebraska. Gen. Larimer, who headed a company from Leavenworth for Cherry Creek, took the Southern or Santa Fe route, leading up the Arkansas river—traveling over 800 miles, and consuming nearly twice the time employed by those who followed the Platte Valley route.

There is no feasible route SOUTH *of the* PLATTE VALLEY—*no good starting point south of Leavenworth;* and all the passable roads converge and unite in the *Platte Valley, at Fort Kearney*, 189 *miles from* OMAHA.

ARE THE CHERRY CREEK MINES IN KANSAS.

This question will be correctly answered by the Government Surveys to be made the ensuing summer. The opinion of the miners is divided. Mr. Downs, whose narrative will be found in this work, thinks they are south of the Nebraska line, others contend that they are north of that line, whilst others believe the mines are divided by the line dividing Nebraska and Kansas.

The Cache-la-Poudre mines, richer than those of Cherry

Creek, and 40 miles further north, are unquestionably in Nebraska.

THE RUSH IN THE SPRING.

Judging from the gold mania that now rages on the frontier, we believe there will be from 50,000 to 100,000 persons in the gold region before August, 1859. This opinion is founded upon the excitement that now prevails, and the result of former gold excitements; upon the prevailing hard times, and the fact that many thousands are out of employment; and that the mines are so easily accessible. The distance is but 540 miles from Omaha to Cherry Creek, according to Mr. Downs' measurement. The Cache-la-Poudre mines are between 40 and 50 miles nearer, being only 500 miles from Omaha.

The Missouri river is navigable for first class steamers to Council Bluffs and Omaha for eight months in the year, so that those who choose may go by steam to those points, where they can procure a complete outfit and six months' provisions for $158 each; thence a journey of 540 miles brings you to the richest mines, and the finest gold which has ever been discovered in North America.

THE ROADS.

From the nature of the soil west of the Missouri river the roads over the prairies are generally good. The sloughs and deep mud which are so common in Illinois and Eastern Iowa, in the spring, making the roads almost im-

passable, are here almost unknown. The roads are hard and smooth, without a stone or a pebble to jolt the carriage. As the prairies away from the streams are rolling, the roads passing over them are necessarily somewhat hilly. Where they follow a valley this difficulty is removed; as for instance, the road up either side of the Platte, which follows the valley for near five hundred miles, with scarce a hill.

THE CREEKS.

The greatest obstacle encountered by the Western traveler, is the unbridged streams. Often have we traveled twice the direct distance to a given point, because an insignificant stream, with a channel but a few feet in depth, was unbridged. Again we have waited for days on the bank of a little Western river for the water to fall so that we could cross. The thoughtful would-be-miner emigrant will not forget to ask, "are the streams bridged or easily fordable;" and we are happy to reply, "they are by the Platte route."

STARTING FOR THE MINES.

Quite a number of adventurers, residing or wintering along the Missouri river, are preparing to set out for the mining region about the first of March. They will be obliged to carry with them, in addition to their own provisions and outfit, feed for their animals sufficient for twenty or twenty-five days, making it necessary to have stronger

teams. This plan cannot be generally recommended to those living at a distance. The great mass of the emigration may calculate to leave the Missouri river about the first of May; at which time the grass is usually sufficient on the plains for the subsistence of stock.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA.

This is the point to which the emigrant should direct his course. It is situate on the east side of the Missouri river, in latitude 41¼° north; it is the largest and most important town in Western Iowa, having a population of over three thousand souls. It commands a large river and country trade, and boasts many fine and substantial three and four story brick business houses, and other buildings.

Council Bluffs was founded in 1847, by the Mormons, under the leadership of Brigham Young and Col. Kane, and was long known by the name of Kanesville. In 1852 the Mormons emigrated to Salt Lake Valley, leaving their town to the Gentiles, who soon thereafter changed the name to Council Bluffs. The emigrant from the East can have his choice of routes by which to reach this point. If traveling by public conveyance, he can, from Keokuk, Iowa, take the Des Moines Valley Railroad to its terminus, and from thence by daily mail stages, by way of Wintersett, to Council Bluffs, in five days. Fare $25—distance 375 miles.

By way of Bloomington and Peoria, Illinois, to Burlington, Iowa, and from thence by the Burlington and Missouri

Railroad to Agency City, near Ottumwa, thence by four horse post coaches, by Fort Des Moines, to Council Bluffs, in four days. Fare $16—distance 250 miles by stage.

From Chicago over the Rock Island Railroad to Davenport, Iowa, thence by railroad, by way of Muscatine, to Washington, and from thence by daily coaches, by way of Oskaloosa, to Council Bluffs, in four days. Fare $18—distance 260 miles.

Or from Davenport by railroad to Iowa City, and from thence by daily four horse mail coaches, by way of Desmoin City, to Council Bluffs, in four days. Fare $18—distance 270 miles.

Still another route is by Dubuque, Iowa, from which point either of the two western railroads may be taken to their terminus, and from thence by mail stages through Central Iowa, to Council Bluffs, in five days. Fare $25—distance 370 miles.

Yet another route may be taken, which gives more railroad travel and less by stage. By way of Quincy, Illinois, and Hannibal, Missouri, to Saint Joseph, Missouri, by railroad, and from thence by daily four horse post coaches to Council Bluffs, in thirty-six hours. Fare $10—distance 150 miles.

After the opening of navigation, a still more comfortable mode of travel will be by steamboat, by way of St. Louis. Time from St. Louis to Omaha, seven to nine days. Fare $20—distance 700 miles.

No doubt very many emigrants will choose to travel by

their own conveyance; in which case they should make their way by the most direct route from their starting point to Council Bluffs. They will find abundant supplies for themselves and animals through all parts of Iowa, and the best of facilities at Council Bluffs and Omaha for fitting out in the most complete manner.

We particularly recommend the following as the most prominent and reliable outfitting houses in Council Bluffs, and bespeak for them a liberal patronage in their several departments:

Tootle & Jackson; McBride & Bowen; A. Bridgman; Alden & Craig; Frederick Sheble, Jr., and N. T. Spoor, dealers in dry goods, groceries and provisions.

Charles J. Fox, dealer in hardware, machinery and mining tools.

E. C. Harrington, and W. C. Andrus, dealers in groceries, liquors and provisions.

A. Geesaman & Co., drugs, medicines, etc.

S. Knepper, and J. M. Phillips & Co., boots, shoes and leather.

E. Knabe, saddles, bridles, harness and findings.

May & Weil, clothing, blankets and furnishing goods.

X. W. Kynett, books, periodicals and stationery.

M. Rogers, and R. D. Amy, stoves, tin ware and camp fixtures.

John O'Donnell, blacksmithing in all its branches.

We also recommend the Pacific House as a first class hotel.

F. Street, and A. Cochran, general business agents.

Baldwin & Dodge, bankers.

Omaha is situated on the west bank of the Missouri river, directly opposite, and in plain view from Council Bluffs. It is the capital of Nebraska and largest and most important town in the Territory, having a population of over three thousand souls. Here is the Capitol building, erected at a cost of over one hundred thousand dollars; a court-house which has cost twenty-five thousand dollars; a hotel—the largest above St. Louis—costing ninety thousand dollars, and numerous other fine and substantial stone and brick business houses, and other buildings.

Among the prominent mercantile and manufacturing houses in Omaha who are prepared to do an extensive outfitting business, we will name and recommend the following:

Charles W. Hamilton; Tootle & Jackson; J. J. & R. A. Brown, Jr., and Megeath, Richards & Co., dealers in dry goods, groceries and provisions.

Hileman & Blair; Pundt & Koenig; John Ritchey; W. R. Demarest, and A. R. Orchard & Son, groceries and provisions.

O. P. Hurford & Brother, successors to Schneider & Hurford, and F. A. Schneider, hardware, cutlery and mining tools of all kinds.

James H. Ford, and James K. Ish & Co., drugs, medicines and liquors, camp cases of assorted medicines.

H. W. Tuttle & Co., drugs, groceries and provisions.

J. K. Wall, and J. W. Paddock, dealers in boots and shoes—miners' boots.

M. Rogers, stoves, tin ware, camp fixtures, gold pans, rocker and long tom irons.

C. C. & C. D. Woolworth, books, periodicals and stationery.

Messrs. Porter & Bremen, forwarding and commission merchants.

Way & Weil, and Hellman Brothers, clothing.

A. J. Simpson, wagons, carriages and mining tools.

McAusland & Son, machinists, guns and pistols.

Sheely & Brother, dealers in fresh and cured meats of all kinds.

There are numerous other houses who will be engaged to some extent in outfitting; two steam flouring mills, several blacksmiths and other artizans.

We also direct attention to the Tremont and Hamilton Houses, first class hotels.

One of the finest and best steam ferry boats on the Missouri river plies hourly between Omaha and Council Bluffs, and omnibuses pass and repass daily. Arrangements have been made by which a second steam ferry will be in readiness for use, in case one cannot accommodate the travel, so that emigrants need have no fear of delay in crossing. Upon the opening of navigation a line of first class steamers will be put upon the route between St. Joseph and Omaha, and there will be daily arrivals from St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and other points.

Emigrants who design traveling by their own conveyance will do well to start before the frost is out of the ground in the spring. By so doing they will find good roads across Illinois and Iowa, and can give their teams three or four weeks' rest on the Missouri river, and start out with them fresh. Abundance of feed can now be obtained in this vicinity at the following prices: corn 25 cents per bushel, oats 35 cents per bushel, hay $4 per ton.

The Western Stage Company are now running a weekly line of four horse mail stages from Omaha to Fort Kearney, making the trip in from twenty-eight to thirty hours traveling time, laying by over night on the way. This line will be extended to Fort Laramie and the gold mines early in the spring, and made a daily line, if the travel is sufficient to justify it. The fare to the mines will be lower than by any other regular line of stages. Passengers can obtain their meals at the stage stations at a cost of about $2.50 per day—time through to the mines twelve days, which will probably be reduced to six or eight days after two or three months. This line will also carry a package and treasure express to and from the mines, by which, and its eastern connections, the time between the mines and New York City will be only fifteen days; being shorter than can be made by any other route.

Messrs. Wood & King, of Omaha, are also preparing to put on a line of four horse stages early in the spring, over the same route.

J. W. Paddock, of Omaha, will send out early in March

next a large stock of boots and shoes, with the design of establishing a permanent business in the mines.

D. B. Hawley, of Florence, is preparing to start in a few weeks with engines and machinery for setting up two steam saw mills in the vicinity of the mines. They will be running by the time the heavy emigration gets through.

W. W. Wyman & Co., of Omaha, will start early in March with a press and complete stock of fixtures for a printing office. They have already issued their prospectus of the "Colona Herald," to be published in the mines, and devoted to the interest of the miners.

H. D. Johnson will send out a passenger train about 15th of April—fare $100, with board and fifty pounds of baggage.

T. H. Young will send out a passenger train about March 1st—fare $70, with board and one hundred pounds of baggage.

Mr. Loveland will start with a stock of groceries and provisions, about the first of May, with the design of establishing permanently in the mines.

MINERS' OUTFIT.

The following is an inventory of the necessary team and outfit, and provisions for six months, for a party of four men. It may be relied upon in every particular. The weights are given that persons may regulate their load to correspond with the strength of their team. The prices are, as nearly as possible, the ruling rates at the outfitting

points on the Missouri river. Upon the opening of navigation they will more likely rule a little lower than higher than the figures given.

TEAM, WAGON, AND FIXTURES.

	PRICE.
3 yoke of oxen, at $75 per yoke, - - -	$225.00
1 wagon, (wooden or wrought iron axle,) -	85.00
Wagon sheet, chains, and yokes, - - -	15.00
Total, - - - - - -	$325.00

CAMP FIXTURES AND FURNITURE.

	WEIGHT.	PRICE.
1 Tent and poles—the latter ironed, -	40	$15.00
10 pairs blankets, at $4 per pair, - -	60	40.00
1 Dutch oven, for baking bread, - -	12	1.25
3 Camp kettles, for tea, coffee, soup, etc.	10	3.00
1 Frying pan, for meat, - - -	2	75
1 Coffee mill, - - - - -	2	50
6 tin plates, - - - - - -	1	50
6 tin cups, - - - - - -	1	50
1 set knives and forks, - - -	1	75
1 set spoons, - - - - -	1	50
2 butcher knives, - - - - -	1	50
1 large pan, for mixing bread, - -	2	75
1 Lard can, to hold forty pounds, -	5	1.50
1 wooden bucket, - - - -	2	25
Totals, - - - -	140	$65.75

TOOLS.

	WEIGHT.	PRICE.
4 steel picks, best quality, with handles,	26	$9.50
4 steel shovels, best quality, Ames' make,	18	6.00
1 Crow bar,	12	1.50
4 Gold pans, largest size,	8	4.00
Sheet iron for Long Tom,	12	75
Pair of gold scales,		2.00
4 Axes, and handles,	20	6.00
1 hand saw,	2	1.50
1 drawing knife,	1	75
3 Augurs, ½ in., 1 in., and 1½ in., and handles,	4	1.80
1 Chisel, 1 inch,	1	35
1 twelve inch file,		40
1 Hatchet,	2	75
2 small gimlets,		15
Totals,	106	$34.95

PROVISIONS.

Flour, at $3.50 per 100 lbs,	1200	$42.00
Bacon, at 10c. per lb.,	400	40.00
Dried Beef, at 12½c. per lb.,	100	12.50
Lard, at 10c. per lb.,	40	4.00
Corn Meal,	200	2.00
Beans,	150	5.25
Dried Fruit,	60	4.00
Salt,	100	1.50

	WEIGHT.	PRICE.
Sugar—dry brown, at 9c. per lb., -	200	$18.00
Coffee, - - - - - - -	75	11.50
Tea, at 65c., - - - - - -	8	5.20
Rice, at 8c., - - - - - -	30	2.40
Pepper, in the grain, - - -	6	1.20
Soda, - - - - - - -	3	30
Cream Tartar, - - - - -	6	3.00
Box of Pickles, in jars, - - -	40	4.00
Totals, - - - - -	2618	$156.85

SUNDRIES.

3 gallons Brandy, - - - - -	24	$12.00
Soap, - - - - - - -	25	2.00
Gunpowder, - - - - - -	8	3.20
Lead, - - - - - - - -	25	2.50
Shot, - - - - - - - -	10	1.00
2000 Gun Caps, - - - - -	1	1.20
2 dozen boxes matches, - - -	5	1.00
10 yards drilling, for sluice, - -	2	1.25
Wrought nails, - - - - - -	4	50
Cut nails, - - - - - - -	6	35
Candles, - - - - - - - -	15	3.75
Whetstone, - - - - - - -	1	20
75 feet of ⅜ or ½ inch manilla rope, -	7	1.60
5 gallon water keg, - - - - -	5	1.25
Totals, - - - - -	138	$31.80

Giving total weight and cost of complete outfit as follows:

	WEIGHT.	PRICE.
Team, wagon and fixtures, - - -		$325.00
Camp fixtures and furniture, -	140 lbs.	65.75
Tools, - - - - - -	106 "	34.95
Provisions, - - - - -	2618 "	156.85
Sundries, - - - - -	138 "	31.80
Grand Totals,	3002 lbs.	$614.35

Or at a cost of $158,58 for each man.

This is a *most complete* outfit. Many articles may be considered superfluous by some, but we desire to present the maximum figure, and leave to the emigrant himself the opportunity of reducing it to suit his wants or his purse. The team, wagon, and all the equipage, is meant to be of the best quality, so are the mining tools and provisions.

The same articles can be bought much cheaper, but of a poorer quality, and a very fair and complete outfit obtained at a cost of $130 to each man. Provisions can no doubt be obtained in the mines at all times after June, 1859, but the cost will probably be five times as great as on the Missouri river. Those who do not take a stock of provisions can travel with much less team; one pair of horses, or one or two yoke of cattle, will haul on a *light* wagon all the baggage and tools, and provisions enough for thirty days, (the time necessary to go through,) for six or seven men, in which case, the cost will not be more than $60 to each man.

The above outfit and supply has been chosen because the weight, 3000 pounds, to which add 200 pounds for personal baggage, arms, etc., for four men, making in all 3200 lbs., is about a good load for three yoke of cattle or two pair of horses, or mules—a load which they will draw easily, unless at a time when the roads are soft, which is very seldom after passing the Missouri river.

Four persons make the most convenient mess for traveling together, as well as working in the mines. In traveling, the labor of taking care of stock, cooking, camping, gathering wood and carrying water, comes lighter than on a smaller number, and at the same time there are enough to do it.

Many will no doubt choose to travel with horses or mules, rather than with cattle. The cost will be a little greater and so will the labor of providing for them, whilst there will be a gaining in time of about one-third. Horse or mule teams can reach the mines in about twenty days from Omaha, ox teams in about thirty days.

Another, and very expeditious mode of travel, is with pack animals. Each man will require two mules or horses, ride one and pack on the other his provisions, a few articles of camp fixtures, and two or three blankets, when he can move along comparatively independent of bad roads, scarcity of grass, water or fuel, and the thousand little annoyances and delays to which a train of wagons is subject. By this means he can reach the mines in fifteen days.

Other emigrants will go with hand-carts, or pack their

clothing and bedding on their backs, depending for their meals upon the trading posts and passing trains. With hand-carts a party of men—say four to each cart—can, at a cost of twenty or twenty-five dollars each, procure the necessary outfit and provisions to last them through, and travel at the rate of twenty miles per day. Packers can move faster, say twenty-five or thirty miles per day, when they have become used to walking, but their living will cost from two to three dollars per day after leaving Fort Kearney, and they must sleep in the open air.

ADVICE TO EMIGRANTS.

Having spent several years of my life in camp in the prairies and forests of the North-western States and Territories, on the plains, among the mountains, and up and down the Pacific coast, a few words of advice, to those who are just commencing a life in camp, based upon my own observation and experience, some of it dearly bought, may not be amiss in this connection.

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL COMFORT.

Your ruffled shirts, standing collars and all kinds of fine clothing had better be left in your trunk, or wardrobe at home; discard *all* cotton or linen clothing; adapt yourself at once to woolen and leather; provide yourself with woolen underclothes; woolen overshirts, thick and strong; woolen pants, and heavy water-proof woolen overcoat; woolen socks; a soft wool hat, and strong cow-hide boots; of all these take enough to last you six months or longer.

You may also leave your razor, for you won't use it. Pack all your baggage in a carpet or canvass sack; carry no trunks or boxes, if you can avoid it. Take a few simple medicines; you may occasionally want them at first, but after a few months' residence in the open air you may throw them away, and with proper care you will hardly ever experience a sick day.

The reasons for wearing woolen clothing I will give. You are going to a region of country where the altitude is very great, and the rise and fall of temperature in the twenty-four hours also great — an elevated mountain land, where the sun rules by day, but the moment he disappears behind the snow peaks, the cold air from their icy sides, sweeps down and around you, and holds sway until the sun again appears in the east. During the day you are working hard — perhaps in the water — and when your work is finished, your clothing is all, more or less, saturated with moisture, either from water or perspiration; you wend your way to camp and sit down, and in a few minutes — if your clothing is cotton or linen — you feel chilled, cold, and eventually more or less rheumatic; whilst under the same circumstances, if dressed in woolen, and enough of it, you will experience no unpleasant feeling or result. The same reasons apply to your bedding, which should be blankets or buffalo robes exclusively. In many parts of the mining region frost will be found, even in mid summer, whilst close by — almost overhanging you, the mountain peaks, clothed with everlasting snow, rear their

lofty heads far above the clouds. It will be safe to say that no fine clothes will be worn in the mines, for twelve months to come.

TEAM AND WAGON.

In selecting your oxen, let them be of medium size — neither very young nor very old — round bodied, with clean limbs, high heads and brisk walkers.

Wagon, good medium two-horse wagon, with wooden or wrought iron axles — no cast iron or pot-metal spindles — falling tongue, and two lock chains. If for horses or mules, a good rubber lock.

TENT, CAMP FIXTURES AND PROVISIONS.

Your tent for four men should be of the "*wall*," or military style — ten feet square, with about three feet walls, made of good drilling or duck, with upright and ridge poles ironed.

Camp-kettles of good sheet or Russia iron, with the ears *riveted* on; the largest should hold three or four gallons, the smallest about three quarts; the latter should be of either tinned iron or of tin itself, for cooking fruit, rice, etc. It will be a great convenience to have your kettles made to "*nest*" together, and at the same time contain all your table furniture.

Thus your tin cups are made low and flaring, with hinge handles, that is, loose at the bottom; they fit together, and just fill your small kettle, which is placed in the next in size, and that in the next; the knives, forks and spoons

are dropped in around the sides, the plates are turned over the top, and the lid put on the large kettle, and the whole does not occupy more space than one empty kettle.

The frying pan should have a long handle for cooking over a camp fire; it is also convenient in passing it around the table, when doing duty as a meat and gravy dish. The wooden pail must do duty to water stock, when necessary, and as a wash tub;—use a camp-kettle to carry water, also for tea-kettle, coffee-pot, etc., etc.

Provisions should be packed in sacks, so far as possible; meat may be piled together in one end of the wagon. Corn meal should be sifted before starting; a sieve is inconvenient to carry, always in the way, and invariably meets with some accident before long. To save carrying a coffee mill, coffee may be pounded in a piece of buckskin or cotton cloth; pepper, the same.

Yeast powder may be substituted for soda and cream of tartar; it is less trouble, equally as good, but costs more. Saleratus may be used, but it is not so good.

Brandy is intended for medicine, rainy days and Fourth of July, and should always be used *very* sparingly. Gunpowder should be carried in tin cases, or a wooden keg, kept as carefully as possible, and a long way from the matches; the latter should be in a tin case. The seventy-five feet of rope you may want to tie up your oxen, giving to each ten or twelve feet; or, you may want it to pull your wagon out of a creek or slough, where your team cannot secure footing if hitched to the tongue; or, in crossing a stream with a boat or raft.

You will not likely have much use for a water-keg, as there is no long distance without water. Canteens may answer every purpose.

In addition to the outfit given, many little knick-knacks may be added, according to the fancy of the purchaser; preserved fruits, prepared vegetables, meats, oysters, cheese and all such extras are relished very much on the plains.

Pemican is an excellent article of provision, and so is the chemically prepared, or concentrated milk.

Pinola is an excellent substitute for a warm meal, when from any circumstances you cannot do any cooking. It is corn first parched and then ground, and is as convenient to carry as corn meal; many a meal have I made from it, and enjoyed it too. Fill a tin cup half full, add a spoonful of sugar, and fill up the cup with water from the nearest stream, and your dinner is ready. Armies have marched for many days on half a pound of pinola per day to each man.

GUARDING CAMP.

No company should, whilst traveling on the plains, spend a night without posting one or more sentinels, as a guard for the camp and stock. No danger of *attack* from Indians need be apprehended, but they will sometimes alarm a herd and cause them to "*stampede*," and at other times cattle, will wander off themselves, if not prevented. It is well to stop them, or at least know the way they have gone. Cattle straying may occasion much delay, if not

absolute loss, when one man awake would prevent the whole trouble. One o'clock is the best time to change the night guard.

Be careful in preventing your animals from drinking alkaline or other poisonous water. In case any should be injured from alkali, the best antidote is some kind of acid; the next best, oil, lard or pieces of fat bacon forced down the throat.

About twenty miles each day is as far as cattle should be driven. This will occupy about ten hours, the balance of the day they should have to feed, so that they may rest at night.

The day's travel should commence from six to seven o'clock A. M., continue five hours, rest two, again travel five hours, and camp for the night. Of course this rule cannot always be adhered to, but it should be so far as practicable. Don't travel Sundays. Your cattle need rest, and so do you.

W. N. BYERS.

Comparative value of Gold from different Mineral Regions in North America.

California Gold worth $17.55 per oz.—fineness, .875
Arizoni " " 19.60 " " .948½
South Platte " " 20.06 " " .979½
According to the assay of the same in the United States assay office, in New York.

EMIGRANTS' GUIDE NUMBER ONE.

From Omaha to the Nebraska and Kansas Gold Mines, and the South Pass. Compiled from the notes of WM. N. BYERS, *who traveled over the route in* 1852.

This route is all the way on the north side of Platte river, and is much the best road to travel over, and has the best water and camping places. It is a little farther to the present mines than the road crossing the Platte at Fort Kearney and passing up the south side of Platte river; but we have no doubt that before many months have elapsed, equally as good diggings will be found on the North Platte, when this will become the most important and much the nearest road from any point of the frontiers.

From Omaha, the emigrant will take the Omaha South Pass and California Military Road, and for those who travel by their own conveyance, the following table of distances and description of camping places will be useful. The intermediate distance in miles is given in the first column, and the whole distance from Omaha in the second column.

Little Pappillon Creek—A small prairie stream; good camp, with wood, water and grass; good military bridge.	6	6
Big Pappillon Creek—A stream 25 feet wide and 3 feet deep, with some timber on its banks; a good camp; military bridge over the creek; near the crossing is the village of Orient, containing one hotel.	6	12

Elkhorn River—Just before reaching the river, the town of Elkhorn is passed—a handsome village, containing two hotels, two stores, a blacksmith's shop, stage station, post office, and some one hundred people. Elkhorn river is a handsome stream, 50 feet wide and five deep; it is crossed on a fine military bridge. This is a fine camp, having all the essentials of comfort.	9	21
Thus far the road has been over gently rolling prairie. It here enters the Great Platte valley, and for 500 miles need ascend scarce a single hill.		
Rawhide Creek—A good camp, having wood, water and grass.	2	23
Fremont—A village on the bank of the Platte river; has between 100 and 200 people—a stage station, post office, stores, etc.	11	34
North Bend—A thriving village on the bank of the Platte; has a post office, stage office, steam saw mill, hotel, etc. Latitude 41° 27′ 5″.	16	50
Emerson's—A public house and good camp.	6	56
Shell Creek—Fifteen feet wide and three feet deep; has a good military bridge. On the east bank of the creek is the village of Buchanan, having post office, stage office, etc.	8	64
Harshberger's—A public house.	6	70

Loup Fork of Platte—This is a wide, swift stream, and has to be crossed by a ferry. Boats are now being built, and, before spring, everything will be in readiness to cross, without delay, any number of emigrants, with their wagons and teams. 15 85

Columbus is situate on the east bank of the Loup fork, at this crossing. It is one of the most thriving interior towns in Nebraska; has two or three hundred people, a post office, steam mill, a very fine hotel, stores, etc., and is the county seat of Platte county. For the last 50 miles, and from here onward, the road keeps near Platte river; and good camping ground can be found at any point by turning off toward the river a short distance from the road, so that emigrants are not obliged to make the points named for camping places.

Small Lake, near the road—a good camp; wood, water and grass. 28 113

Lone Tree Stage Station—A good camp; wood, water and grass. 5 118

Prairie Creek—Bridged; a good camp; wood, water and grass. 15 133

Wood River, thirty feet wide and two feet deep, with gravel bed, good crossing, timber on the banks—good camp. Here is the village of Mendota, on some maps named "Nebraska Centre." The Stage Co. have a station here 18 151

Grand Island City, and post office. This place was founded by a German colony, in 1858, and has a considerable population.	7	158
Small Creek—A good camp; timber south of road.	6	164
Slough—South of the road; no wood; water and grass plenty. If you have to camp here, bring your wood from the last creek.	14	178
Platte River, north bank opposite Fort Kearney. Continuing up the north side, we next come to	7	185
Two prairie ravines—A spring in the last one, to the right of the road.	4	189
Dry Creek—Good grass; water most of the year.	6	195
Elm Creek—A small stream; good crossing; wood, water and grass; good camp.	6	201
Buffalo Creek—Much such a stream as Elm Creek; wood for camping purposes.	5	206
Near Platte River—A good camp.	18	224
Willow Lake—Plenty of water and grass, but no fuel except willows.	9	233
Ptah Lake—Water and grass, but no wood.	13	246
Bluff joins Platte River—Grass and water, but no wood.	12	258
Skunk Creek—A beautiful, clear prairie stream; good water and grass, but no wood. For six or seven miles before reaching Skunk Creek, the road is over rolling ground, and somewhat sandy.	7	265

Pawnee Springs—These are very remarkable springs of most excellent water. They burst from little grassy hillocks, to the left of the road. They are about one-fourth of a mile apart; the second one is the largest. These springs are situated in the mouth of a seeming natural amphitheatre, enclosed by high bluffs on the east, north and west.	6	271
Mestayer's Creek—A fine prairie stream; good camp, but no wood.	6	277
Platte River—Fuel is scarce; a little drift-wood may be found along the river bank.	3	280
Grove of timber—Here will be found a good camp. The emigrant should take a supply of wood from here, as but little now will be found for 200 miles.	4	284
Black Mud Creek—But little water will be found here in the dry season, say after first of June; good grass; no wood.	5	289
North Bluff Fork of Platte—This is a beautiful stream, six rods wide and twelve inches deep, with good gravelly ford and very low banks. Here will be found good grass, and buffalo chips for fuel, which, if dry, make a very good fire; but in rainy weather is a very poor substitute for wood.	17	306

The road now passes over a point of the sandy highlands, and we next reach

Elk Creek—There is a fine spring one-fourth of a mile north of the road at the crossing. Grass and Buffalo chips. Good road to	9	315
Shepherd's Creek—Good camp, plenty of grass and chips.	4	319
Wolf Springs—	2	321
Petite Creek—Small stream; good camp.	6	327
Rattlesnake River—Two rods wide, twelve inches deep; good crossing and good camp; grass and chips.	8	335
Camp Creek—Handsome stream; good crossing and good camp, with plenty of grass and chips.	8	343
How's Creek—Here is a good camp; a little farther two small streams are crossed, the first of which is a little alkaline.	5	348
Watch Creek—Good camp, with plenty of grass, and Buffalo chips for fuel.	6	354
Lone Tree—South of road.	4	358
Opposite Ash Hollow—	4	362
Castle River—Four rods wide, eight inches deep; good crossing and good camp. Castle, or Court House Rock, on the south side of the river, may be seen from here.	2	364
Spring—South of road.	5	369
Calm Creek—A small stream; good camp. The road keeps near the river for many days' travel along here, and good camps may be found almost anywhere by turning down to	3	372

the river bank. Drift wood and willows may also be found in many places near the bank.		
Indian Mound—North of road.	18	390
Crab Creek—	2	392
Slough—Near the road; a good camp, grass and chips. The Bluffs on either side begin to present a rocky and precipitous appearance. From the top of the Bluff, to the right may be seen Chimney Rock.	1	393
Ancient Bluff Ruins—North of road, resembling the ruins of castles, towers and buildings, said to be full of rattlesnakes.	9	402
Platte River—Road follows the river for some miles, and good camps may be found at any point. Buffalo chips for fuel.	12	414
Opposite Court House Rock, south of river. A huge, isolated mass of rock, of a soft marly formation, which the elements are fast wearing away. From some points of view it resembles an ancient storm-beaten castle. Latitude 42° N.	8	417
Opposite Chimney Rock—This is a single slender shaft, or column, rising from the summit of a low conical hill to a great height. This, like the "Court House," is fast yielding to the hand of time. Road keeps near the river, and we next come opposite	8	425

Capitol Hill, or *Scott's Bluffs*—This is a most singular group of hills, on the opposite side of the river. Seen from a distance, by a slight stretch of the fancy they resemble an ancient city of vast and massive buildings, with lofty domes and stately spires.	21	446
Spring Creek—Here is seen the first Absinthe, or wild sage, (*artimisia tridentata;*) it makes excellent fuel when a sufficient quantity can be obtained.	5	451
Platte River—Good camp, but fuel is scarce.	5	456
Blue Rock Bluff—To the right. From here may be seen Laramie Peak, appearing like a cloud in the western horizon.	8	464
Cotton Wood Grove, on the bank of the river. Here will be found an excellent camp.	16	480
Antelope Creek—Wood, water and grass, for camping.	7	487
Fort Laramie—Lat. 42° 12′ 09″. Long. 104° 11′ 51″. Before reaching the Fort the north fork of Platte is crossed, by a good wooden bridge. It is here a handsome stream of clear water, running over a rocky bed. The Fort is beautifully situated on a handsome point of land between the North Platte and Laramie rivers.	11	498

From Fort Laramie the emigrant can take the old Santa Fe road, bearing a general south-west course, skirting

along the foot of the Black Hills, with good camping places at convenient distances, with plenty of wood, water, and grass, and leading direct to the mouth of Cherry Creek, which point he will reach in 140 miles from the Fort; making the whole distance from Omaha to Cherry Creek, via Fort Laramie, 638 miles.

Cherry Creek is at present the heart of the mining region, and within a small compass are situate the towns of Denver, Saint Charles and Montana. Lieut. Col. Cooke, who traveled over this road from Ft. Laramie to Cherry Creek in 1845, says of the road: "It is the best natural road we have yet seen. There is nothing to prevent a light carriage from passing over it at the rate of twelve miles to the hour; and this so near the mountains, and in view of perpetual snow."

Again, from Fort Laramie the gold seeker may strike west, up the valley of Laramie river, prospecting as he goes, traveling through a most beautiful and romantic country, and reaching the Medicine Bow in 120 miles from the Fort, and 618 miles from Omaha.

The Medicine Bow is reported by some to be the richest mining region yet discovered.

Passing the Medicine Bow, the North Platte is reached in 30 miles; here diverging to the left, and following up the North Platte and traveling 50 miles, we enter the North Park, or Bull-Pen, 200 miles from the Fort and 700 miles from Omaha. Of this delightful region, W. Gilpin, in his letter to the Missouri Democrat, bearing date Inde-

pendence, Mo., and very recently published, gives the following beautiful description:

"Soon upon the eastern flank the Northern Park, or Bull-Pen, reveals itself; along whose centre meanders the great Platte river, here running to the north in a direction contrary to the mountain crest. This is the fourth in number of the parks, but has been the first and best known in popular reputation. Being very large, very central, and easily accessible to us going out from the lower Missouri, it became the favorite winter home of the early trappers and explorers. It is an amphitheatre of large area, whose mountain sides, covered with soil, vegetation, and scattered forests of evergreens, slope gradually up on every side. Its level plain is laced with streams and checkered with meadows, sparkling with flowers, and romantic groves, in perfectly graceful alternations; its atmosphere is genial and exhilarating, and the temperature mild through the year."

From recent reports this Park also abounds in rich deposits of gold.

Again, starting from Fort Laramie, we continue our route up the north side of the Platte. The next point of note is

Spring and Deep Ravine—A good camp.	6	504
Ash Grove—Plenty of wood, water and grass.	5	509
Two Springs, in a ravine. Good camping place for the last eight miles, and the next eight the road is very hilly and rocky, passing over a ridge of the Black Hills.	8	517

Platte River, and a cold spring—Fine camp; pine timber.	8	525
Small Creek—Here is a delightful camping place, in a beautiful grove of box elder.	15	540
Springs—Good camp.	5	545
Small Stream— Good camp.	2	547
Platte River— " "	8	555
Small Creek— " "	5	560
Cottonwood Grove—" "	5	565
Small Creek— " "	10	575
Platte River— " "	10	585
Spring & Ravine— " "	3	588
Spring & Ravine— " "	4	592
Keep near the river, to ferry with fine camping ground whenever desired; good road.	45	637
Upper Ferry—At these two ferries the South Platte road crosses to the north side of the river. In the bluff near here are seen some very singular boulders, round, smooth and regular as cannon balls, but some of them very large. It is from the profusion of similar rocks near its mouth that the Cannon Ball river, a tributary of the Upper Missouri, takes its name.	4	641
Mineral Springs—The water of these springs is impregnated with alkali, and should not be used by men or animals.	13	654
Avenue Rock—The road here passes through a singular rocky gate or canon.	7	661

Alkali Swamp—poisonous.	2	663
Clear Spring Creek—Good water and good camp.	4	667
Willow Spring—A fine spring and camp, grass and fuel.	3	670
Harper's Creek—Good camp, sage for fuel.	8	678
Woodworth Creek—Fine stream and good camp.	3	681
Woodworth Creek—Second crossing.	3	684
Greasewood Creek—These creeks are all easily crossed. Along their banks are willows, sage brush and greasewood, giving abundance of fuel. Among the brush, horses and cattle find a good supply of mountain or bunch grass, which is very nutritious.	2	686
Saleratus Lake—South of the road, around the border of the lake, great quantities of crystalized soda may be obtained.	6	692
Independence Rock—This is an isolated granite rock, about 1,800 feet long, 600 feet wide and 125 feet high. Hundreds of names of emigrants, hunters and explorers are engraved and painted on its surface. Along the south foot of the rock flows the beautiful Sweet Water, and here we first cross it.	4	696

From this point, the gold hunter may turn directly south, and follow up the North Platte 150 miles, to its source in the North Park. Gold is reported to have been found at various points along the north Platte, both above

and below this point; and there is but little doubt but the whole course of this stream will be found rich in that metal.		
Devil's Gate—Here the Sweet Water rushes through a most remarkable canon or gorge, 2,000 feet long, 120 feet wide and 500 feet deep, with perpendicular walls of smooth and solid granite. Soon after passing the gate, two small streams are passed. Camps can be made almost wherever desired.	5	701
Creek and Ravine—Not difficult to cross.	7	708
Alkali Lake—South of the road, half a mile.	4	712
Sage Creek—Alkaline water—poisonous.	5	717
Three Feet Creek.	4	721
Bitter Cottonwood Creek—Water in pools only during the summer; grass; sage for fuel.	3	724
Road forks—Good camp on Sweet Water. Take the left hand road.	6	730
Sweet Water—Good camp.	10	740
Ice Springs—Situate in a little grassy flat. By digging two or three feet below the surface, ice, or something very much resembling it, is found.	6	746
Sweet Water—Crossing and a good camp. This is a beautiful stream of clear, pure water, eight rods wide and three feet deep, with rocky bed and rapid current.	10	756
Sweet Water—Another crossing; and half a mile beyond, still another.	4	760

Musk Rat Creek.	3	763
Road leaves the River and ascends the bluff.	4	767
Three Lakes—Alkaline, half a mile south of the road. Here the gold hunter, by turning north, leaving the road and traveling over a rolling country, can reach the Wind river in fifteen miles. This stream is a tributary of the Yellow Stone, and is said to abound in gold.	4	771
Strawberry Creek—This is a beautiful mountain stream, with willows; and a little west of it a quaking aspen grove. A delightful camp may be made on this stream; and strawberries gathered in July.	5	776
McAhran's Branch of Sweet Water, fine stream and camp.	4	780
Last Crossing of Sweet Water, two rods wide and two feet deep. A good camp. Here the traveler westward bids good-bye to Atlantic waters.	7	787
South Pass—Summit of ridge, Lat. 42° 18′ 58″. Long. 108° 40′. Altitude, 7,080 feet.	10	797

Again we quote from the excellent letter of W. Gilpin—before referred to—his description of this, the greatest and best of all the Passes of this great mountain chain.

"The third park is the plain of the South Pass. Although adjacent to the other two, it is in perfect contrast

to them in all its characteristic features. Its surface of clay has the perfect smoothness of a water plain, over which the eye ranges without interruption. Rain is rare, and the vegetation of grass and artemisia scanty and uniform; upon its south front rises again the Cordillera, under the local name of Table Mountain. This forms an immense arc, similar to the Wind River Mountain, but in the opposite direction, for, turning to the south-west, it subsides to the Rio Verdi, which is the great Colorado. These two arcs approach one another within thirty miles, forming a double corner over the gorge through which the Sweet Water escapes. To mark the continuity of the mother crest, a gentle crown traverses the plain from one mountain corner to the other, only traceable by the perfect division which it makes between the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

"In the Table Mountain the Cordillera rises again. It resumes its direction, configuration and altitude, which it preserves with uninterrupted uniformity clear through the continent to Tehuantepec. As far as the 38th degree of latitude, it sheds the waters of the great Colorado from its western flank; those of the Plattes and Arkansas rivers from its eastern flank.

"I am admonished here to pause and fix attention on the number, grandeur and variety of the physical elements combined around this culminating point of the mountains and rivers of our continent. Nature here, more perfectly than at any other point upon the globe, unites in one grand

coup d'œil all her grandest features, which, harmoniously grouped, present to the mind a combination of superlative sublimity. These contrasted parks, so different, yet so close together! The intense massiveness of the Cordilleras! The number and proximity of great rivers! The brillancy and serenity of the atmosphere in which they shine! The awful storms which at long intervals brew among and shatter the iced mountain tops! The graphic conviction ever present to the mind, of the immediate presence and presiding omnipotence of the Creator! The impression left with me, and made by the peculiar grit and apearance of the soil which overlays the plain of the South Pass, is of a 'placer of kaline,' resembling the biscuit from which porcelain is burned. This is disintegrated, and washed down from the bald mountain flanks of porphyritic granite. Whether there may be, also, here concealed, immense placers of gold and precious stones, coming from the same source, is not yet tested; but such ought to be the fact, from the pure auriferous material of the mountains."

EMIGRANTS' GUIDE NUMBER TWO,*

To the Nebraska and Kansas Gold Mines, by way of Fort Kearney, and up the south side of Platte river, and the south fork of the same.

From Omaha the traveler follows the road described in the guide for the "North Platte route," to a point on the north bank of the Platte, opposite Fort Kearney, 185 miles from Omaha. The intermediate distances, in miles, are given in the first column, and the whole distance from Omaha in the second.

Platte River, opposite Fort Kearney—Here will be found a good camp, with grass and wood. The road turns directly south, and crosses the Platte, passing over several islands and crossing narrow channels between. The deepest channel is three or four feet in depth. The bed of the river is sandy. Teams should not be allowed to stop and stand in the water, or both animals and wagon will sink in the sand and in a few minutes become immovable. On the island will be found wood and grass, and good camping places.		185
Fort Kearney—This is a government post, and is always garrisoned by one or more companies	4	189

* The distances by this route from Fort Kearney to Cherry Creek, are from the report of those who have traveled over the road twice within the last four months, and may be relied upon as very nearly correct.

of troops. It is handsomely situated on the right bank of the river, on a grassy plain. The military reservation is ten miles square, with the fort near the centre. J. E. Boyd & Co. have established a provision, grocery and feed store at this place, for the accommodation of travelers, and supplies may be relied upon.

Seventeen mile Point—Here will be found a good camp, in a fine grove of timber.	17	206
Plum Creek—A good camp, with wood, water and grass.	20	226
Pond, in the prairie, a few rods south of the road—water and grass, and some buffalo chips for fuel. Road runs about two miles from the river.	16	242
Brady's Island—Good camp on bank of small channel of river—must bring fuel from island.	15	257
Bank of River—Opposite small island—a good camp, with wood from the island.	3	260
Cottonwood Springs—Some timber on this creek, and good water and grass. The Salt Lake Stage Company have a station here; there is also a trading post and a post office.	3	263
Cedar Grove—In the bluffs south of the road. This is the last timber of any consequence for over 200 miles. Emigrants will do well to take fuel for six or seven days' travel.	4	267

Fremont's Springs—A small creek coming from the west. The road follows along it seven or eight miles, and camps can be made at any point, with water and grass, but no fuel.	18	285
O'Fallon's Bluff—Here is a stage station, good camp, without fuel.	17	302
More & Grimes' trading post, a good camping place, with water and grass, and a few cotton wood trees.	1	303
Prairie Lake—One and a half miles from river. Good camp, with water, grass and buffalo chips.	24	327
Alkali Lake—This water is very bad, and stock should by all means be kept from it.	6	333
South Platte Ford—The road to Fort Laramie here crosses the river. The road to the mines continues up the south side, making no crossing. As yet there has been but little travel on it, but it can be easily found.	16	349
Enter sand—Thus far from Fort Kearney the road has been good, passing over firm ground—it now enters the sand, and is very heavy for three miles.	13	362
Camp on River, and end of sandy road. Good grass, but no wood. In this sand the road crosses a wide, flat channel, which probably has water a part of the year.	3	365

A few trees and some willows. The bodies of some dead Indians are deposited on scaffolds in the tops of the trees. This is the mode of sepulture among many of the prairie Indians. The road now keeps near the river, and is very good. Camps can be made wherever desired, with good grass and water, and occasionally willows may be obtained from the islands in the river. We next come to	8	368
Beaver Creek—Runs through a very deep ravine, and the descent to it and ascent from it is very steep. It is a handsome stream, twenty feet wide and three feet deep. Good camp, without fuel.	86	454
Timber and good camps. From here to the mines, timber is found in abundance for camping purposes.	12	466
Kioway Creek—In a wide alkaline bottom. The stream is wide and shallow, running over sand. Water impregnated with alkali, and should be used but sparingly.	4	470
Bijou Creek—Dry at crossing, but undoubtedly has water most of the year. Kioway and Bijou creeks both head in pine forests, about 35 miles south. Half a mile west there is a handsome grove, where a good camp can be made, with water from the river.	16	486

Sand Ridges—After leaving Bijou, the road climbs a steep bluff, and is then very good to these sand ridges—long sandy points running down to the river, which washes their base, whilst the road climbs over them, and is very heavy and difficult. Teams can make but nine or ten miles per day. Camps on the river.	16	502
Over sand ridges, and near the river.	18	520
Mouth of Cache-a-la-Poudre river, and Thompson's creek, opposite, both coming in from the north-west.	9	529
Saint Vrain's Fort—This is a trader's fort, on the right or south bank of the river. Here the gold hunter, who wishes to visit the *Cache-a-la-Poudre* mines, will cross the river, and traveling in a north-west direction, reach the mines in ten or fifteen miles. The mines on this stream are, no doubt, the richest that have yet been worked in the South Platte country.	2	531
Fort Lancaster—Charley Bent's old fort—deserted, and in ruins.	7	538
Fort Lupton—Also deserted and in ruins.	5	543
Jim Sanders' Ranch—On an island in the river. This is a very rich and productive island—four miles in length.	11	554
Dry Creek—Camps can be made at any point by turning down to the river.	12	566

Cherry Creek—This is at present the heart of the mining region, and in the immediate neighborhood, all who have yet reached the mines are wintering; they number something over one thousand men.	3	569

The town of Auraria was laid off in November, 1858, on the point between Cherry Creek and the Platte; and soon after, the town of Denver was laid out just below the mouth of Cherry Creek. The latest reports from there say that the two have been united under the name of Denver, and that before spring there will be some 150 houses erected therein. Among others, one for a hotel has been contracted for, which will be 80 by 60 feet in size. This house will be opened early in the spring, by Mr. Stevens, now of the Central House, in Saratoga, Nebraska.

From here, the miner can travel in any direction he chooses without difficulty, as regards camping places. The mining region extends south, west and north to an unknown distance.

Very near, on the west, rise the snow-clad Rocky Mountains, towering high among the clouds. North and south, stretch far away the foot hills of the great mountain range, many of them rising to a height of six or seven thousand feet, and covered with great forests of pine.

EMIGRANTS' GUIDE NUMBER THREE,

From Nebraska City to Fort Kearney, to the Nebraska and Kansas Gold Mines.

The whole distance to Fort Kearney is taken from the "*Nebraska City News*"; distance between camps, from the journal of a party who recently traveled over the route.

Nebraska City is the second town in importance in the Territory of Nebraska. It is situate on the west bank of the Missouri river, on the site of old Fort Kearney, in latitude 40° 40′ north, fifty miles below Omaha, thirty miles below the mouth of the Platte river, and one hundred miles above Saint Joseph.

It has many very fine and substantial buildings, for hotels, mercantile houses, churches and residences, and contains between 2,500 and 3,000 persons. Emigrants will find this a good outfitting point, in all departments of trade.

From here the road will be the same over which Messrs. Majors, Russell & Waddell have, during the past year, transported a large portion of the supplies for the Utah army.

For the first fifty miles, the road leads through continuous settlements, and camping places or accommodations at the houses of settlers can be obtained without inconvenience. For this reason, we have not deemed it necessary to give points until we reach

Weeping Water—This is a beautiful stream, bordered with fine groves of timber, thriving settlements and towns; and well improved farms are found all along its course.	35	
Salt Creek—This is a fine stream of saline water, though not so much so as to make it unfit for use. Fine grass and timber will be here found. Some distance above the crossing there are some fine salt springs, destined at some future day to supply the valley of the Missouri with that most necessary article —salt.	15	50
The road now follows a divide between a branch of Salt Creek and Wahoo Creek, and camps may be found by turning off the road, to the latter stream.		
Elm Creek—A good camping place in the Platte bottom, nearly opposite the mouth of Loup Fork.	75	125
Slough—Here a camp may be made. Wood should be brought from Elm Creek, and also for the next camp. From here there is a long drive without water, unless you go to the river, which is distant. The road keeps along the foot of the bluff, in the bottom.	5	130
Platte River—A good camp. The road now ascends the bluff, and passes alternately over sandy ridges—which run out to the river,—	35	165

and across points of bottom land, intervening between the sand hills,—and is very heavy and tedious travel. Camps may be made on the river bank.		
Leave sandy road, and enter river bottom. The road now continues along the bottom about two miles from the river. Camps may be made on sloughs, which are frequently found, or by turning down to the river bank.	20	185
Round Pond, in the bottom, near the road. Here a road comes in from Fort Leavenworth.	50	235
Fort Kearney.	15	250
Cherry Creek—For description of road, and camps, and table of distances from Fort Kearney to Cherry Creek, the reader is referred to Guide No. 2, in this book.	380	630

EMIGRANTS' GUIDE NUMBER FOUR.*

From Saint Joseph, Missouri, to the South Platte Gold Mines.

St. Joseph, Missouri, is the largest town in western Missouri, containing a population of seven or eight thousand persons. It is the western terminus of the Hannibal and Saint Joseph Railroad, which will be finished and in running order in a very few months. When this is done, Saint Joseph may be reached in twelve or fifteen hours from the Mississippi river.

A daily line of first class steamers ply regularly between Saint Louis and Saint Joseph, during the spring, summer and autumn. All kinds of outfitting goods can be procured at Saint Joseph, at reasonable rates.

At this point the emigrant crosses the Missouri river, on a good steam ferry-boat, to Elwood, in Kansas; thence traveling through a low bottom, thickly timbered with cottonwood, and, in rainy weather, very muddy, he reaches

Wathena, on Clear Creek, at foot of bluff, a fine camping place. From here the road is somewhat hilly to	6	6
Mosquito Creek—Low bottom on east side of creek; some timber on both sides. From here the road is quite hilly.	15	21

* The distances and description of camping places, in the following guide, are taken from the California Guide written and published some years since, by Judge F. Street, now of Council Bluffs, Iowa. We are personally acquainted with Judge S., and can assure emigrants that his statements are entitled to implicit credit.

Wolf River—Low, wide bottom on east side; banks of stream very steep and miry.	5	26
Indian Agency—This is the agency of the Miami and Kickapoo Indians. There is a missionary station, and a good school for their education.	4	30
Mill Creek—A prairie stream, with a few elm trees just above the road.	5	35
Small Creek—Left of the road; some timber on its banks; good camp.	22	57
Grove—Half a mile north of road; good camp.	6	63
Small Creek and grove—North of the road; nice place and good camping ground.	10	73
Small Creek—One mile north of the road; plenty of wood and water.	12	85
Nemaha River—This is a beautiful stream of clear water; plenty of timber, and a fine place to camp.	7	92
Little Nemaha River—Plenty of timber and good water; good camp.	12	104
Small Creek in the prairie—Plenty of water and some timber.	12	116
Rock Creek—Plenty of water and grass, and some green elm trees on the bank.	4	120
Blue River—Should this stream be up, you will have to build a raft to cross on. It is about fifty yards wide, has a very rapid current, and abounds in excellent fish.	18	138

Small Creek in the prairie—Some timber half a mile from the road each way.	10	148
Small Creek—Plenty of standing water.	10	158
Small Creek—Plenty of water, and some green timber half a mile north of road.	7	165
Wythe Creek—Plenty of timber and good water. After this, several small streams to cross, and steep hills to ascend and descend.	7	172
Big Sandy—Good water and some timber.	13	185
Dry Sandy—This stream is very wide, and the bed of sand, in which the water sinks in dry weather.	13	198
Little Blue River, or American Fork—This is a deep, narrow stream of beautiful, clear, running water. Its banks are skirted with a thin growth of cottonwood. Road follows the river forty-four miles, with camping places all along.	12	210
Road leaves river—	44	254
Small Creek in the prairie—Some timber; but the water is not good.	4	258
Small Creek—Good water and some timber.	3	261
Platte River—Good camp on bank of river.	17	278
Fort Kearney—	10	288
Cherry Creek—For distances, camps and description of road, see "Guide No. 2," from Fort Kearney to Cherry Creek, in this book.	380	668

EMIGRANTS' GUIDE NUMBER FIVE,

From Leavenworth City, Kansas, to Fort Kearney on the Platte.

The following distances were given by Mr. Garside, a member of Mr. Hibbard's party, who have been employed the past summer in erecting bridges on the route from Fort Riley to Fort Kearney. For distances from Fort Kearney to the mines, the reader is referred to Guide No. 2.

LEAVENWORTH CITY to	MILES.	TOTAL.
Salt Creek,	3	
Stranger Creek,	10	13
Hickory Point,	12	25
Grasshopper,	10	35
Little Rock Creek,	9	42
Muddy "	3	45
Indian "	4	49
Soldier "	3	52
Silver Lake,	10	62
Cross Creek,	7	69
St. Mary's Mission,	6	75
Lost Creek,	7	82
Red Vermillion,	5	87
Rock Creek,	3	90
Elder Creek,	7	97
Manhatton,	8	105
Wild Cat,	4	109
Ogden,	5	114
Fort Riley,	6	120
Madison Creek,	12	132
Miry "	10	142
Middleton "	10	152

	MILES.	TOTAL.
Loupe Creek,	10	162
Parsons "	7	169
Up-hill "	8	177
Rocky Ford Creek,	8	185
Muddy "	13	198
Crooked "	13	211
Clear "	6	217
Cool Spring "	7	224
Jenny's "	10	234
Bryce's Fork Creek,	9	243
Woody "	3	246
Goodale's Branch,	9	255
Little Blue,	3	258
Water Hole, No. 1,	29	287
" No. 2,	9	294
Platte River,	4	298
Fort Kearney,	15	313

At Leavenworth the emigrant will find excellent outfitting facilities, in every branch of trade. Leavenworth has a population of over 8,000 persons, and is a place of large trade and much enterprise.

There are roads starting from points all along the Missouri river, at intervals of a few miles, which will be used by emigrants starting from their immediate vicinity. They all converge and unite with some one of the principal roads given, before proceeding very far from the river.

With the exception of Council Bluffs, Omaha, Nebraska City, Saint Joseph and Leavenworth, there are no points at which there are facilities for outfitting any considerable number of emigrants.

EMIGRANTS' GUIDE NUMBER SIX,

From Fremont's Springs to Fort Laramie.

The following distances and description of camps are taken from Franklin Street's California Guide.

From Fort Kearney to Fremont's Springs, is 96 miles. For description of road and camps, see Guide No. 2.

Fremont's Springs, from Fort Kearney, 96 miles.

From Omaha *via* Fort Kearney,		285
Crossing of South Platte—This is the old crossing. The river is near a mile wide, but is not bad to cross. From here, the best way is to go round the point of the bluffs that lie in the fork of the river, and take up the valley of the North Platte. Since the summer of 1857, the road usually traveled continues up the south side, and crosses the South Fork 57 miles above this ford, and again intersects the old road about Ash Hollow.	7	292
Cedar Bluffs—Here the road leaves the river, and ascends a long hill, after which it is good. Long hill to descend.	24	316
Platte River—The road now follows the river to Ash Hollow.	12	328
Cedar Grove—This is a beautiful little grove on the bank of the river. After traveling about two miles from here, you ascend a long hill, in some places very steep, from the top of which you will descend to	24	352

Ash Hollow—You reach the creek about a mile from the river. It is a very small stream, with some springs along its banks, and walled in by very high, rocky bluffs. From here you keep near the bluff, and can get water for camping by digging two or three feet.	3	355
Lawrence Creek—A broad, shallow stream.	38	393
Chimney Rock—From here there are two roads. The one on the right keeps near the river, and you can get water until within fifteen miles of Scott's Bluffs. The other one keeps near the bluff, and in dry weather you will find no water until you get near the bluffs.	18	411
Scott's Bluffs, or Capitol Hills. Here will be found some most delightful and romantic scenery.	30	441
Small Stream—Some water, but no wood.	3	444
Small Creek—Water not good; banks very steep.	10	454
Horse Creek—About 100 feet wide, but very shallow. No fuel here. The road from here to the river somewhat hilly and sandy.	1	455
Platte River—The road now keeps near the river for twenty-two miles.	13	468
Laramie River—	27	495
Fort Laramie—	1	496

M. D. DOWNS' TRIP TO THE NEBRASKA MINES.

MR. DOWNS is well known in this community as an honest, truthful man—what he says is reliable. He left Omaha, Sept. 27th, 1858, with an ox team and six months' provisions, for the Cherry Creek gold mines. After reaching there, he soon found that the six months' provisions laid in for four men, would not last them more than four months; so he returned to Omaha for a new supply, arriving there on the 20th day of December. At our request, he has furnished us the following statement of his trip, with a description of the route passed over, and many incidents of camp life, which, to those who think of roughing it on the plains, is well worth the cost of this little book.

MR. DOWNS' LETTER.

Omaha, December 29, 1858.

MESSRS. BYERS AND KELLOM:

Gentlemen:

The first few days since my return from the mines has been taken up in delivering letters and messages from those in the mines to their friends here, and answering questions. I was not prepared to find here so much interest in that new Eldorado which I have lately visited. Nearly one-half the men I meet are laying their plans for a spring stampede; indeed, I know of but three families in the town of Florence who are not talking of going to the mines.

Having kept no written diary of my travels, I state from memory the facts herein contained, and believe they will be verified by tens of thousands who will follow my track in the spring. I design leaving here about the first of February, with a fresh load of provisions, drive to Grand Island City, this side of Fort Kearney, where there is plenty of hay and empty houses, and where a large number of persons have promised to meet me; and after resting a week or two, I shall head the train for the land of gold.

But let us go back to Omaha and the 27th day of September, when my company of four, H. Swigart, William Hoopes, W. D. McLain and myself, with a wagon, three yoke of oxen, and a load weighing 3,761 pounds, started for the Nebraska gold mines. We took no provender for our cattle, depending entirely on grass, which we found in abundance all the way.

The first day we made twenty-three miles, and camped on Rawhide creek, a few miles west of Elkhorn City. Here we were joined by ten teams, increasing our force to thirty-four men, well armed, hopeful, and all in good health.

The next day, passing through Fremont, a thriving inland town, and over a perfectly level road, with the Platte river always in sight, we pitched our camp near Buchanan, on Shell creek.

Continuing our journey without unnecessary delay along the most beautiful valley in North America, we reached, in

the evening of the fourth day, the town of Columbus, on the bank of the Loupe Fork of the Platte.

This has been considered the most difficult stream to cross on the route. There are two channels with an island between. The deepest channel is six or eight feet, narrow, and has a strong current. The large ferry boat was sunk, and a smaller one—too small to carry our wagons and teams—temporarily supplied its place. After ferrying our wagons over to the island, our cattle were driven over in the following rather amusing manner: One was driven in at a time, and when he got beyond his depth, his driver caught him by the tail, and thus buoying himself up, whipped the unwilling brute across to the island, where we yoked and hitched up, and drove our teams through some twelve rods of shallow water, to the main shore on the west side of the "*fork.*" On my return, I found two large boats in course of construction for this ferry, and the Western Stage Company design building a third, so that no delay will be incurred by emigrants at this crossing, after the first of March, 1859.

Three days' travel brings us to Grand Island City, a German town, built upon an island in the Platte. It contains about thirty houses, one-half of which are empty, the owners having returned to their old homes to spend the winter. The hay and grass on this island are very fine.

Eight miles further we come to Wood river crossing. Here Mr. Crocker, formerly of Omaha, keeps a good hotel.

This stream, running a long distance nearly parallel with the Platte, into which it empties, is lined with timber, and abounds in fine buffalo fish, nearly as good as the brook trout. They take the bait readily; so we caught a large number with hooks, and carried a supply with us, upon which we continued to feast for a week after; the largest weighed one and a half pounds.

From this point we found two roads to Fort Kearney; one along the Platte, which bows to the south; the other along Wood river, which bows to the north; we chose the latter as being shorter, the road higher and better, and affording good fuel and camping places. Geese and ducks were plentiful along the whole route. After following Wood river twenty-six miles, we struck across for the Platte ford, some eight miles distant to the south, where we arrived late in the evening, in the beginning of a rain-storm, which continued to pour down all night, all next day and the next night. We were now one hundred and eighty-five miles from Omaha; and thus far, ours had been a pleasure trip, rather than a toilsome journey. The weather had been fine, the road excellent, and the scenery delightful. The wide and shallow Platte, dotted all along with green islands of timber, and always hugging the steep frowning bluff on the south,—the Elkhorn rushing down from the north-west, where its winding course may be traced far away by the timber that skirts its banks,—the Rawhide, half concealed by the willows it nourishes, meandering through the valley, now approaching the Elkhorn,

as if to empty its treasures there, and then skipping off towards the Platte,—Shell creek, with its newly opened farms,—Wood river, cool and clear, with its shady groves and log cottages of hardy pioneers—the great *Platte Valley itself*, from six to eight miles wide,—all make up a picture, which never tires the eye, and is more appreciated the more it is studied.

Sunday afternoon we forded the Platte, which is about a mile and a half wide, and full of islands — we drove over six of these in crossing. Some of our company doubled teams, but our three yoke of oxen drew their load without flinching. The deepest channel, after the copious rain, was not more than three or four feet in depth. We are now at Fort Kearney, one hundred and eighty-nine miles from Omaha, which distance we have made in nine days. Here the Nebraska City road comes in. After spending a few hours at the Fort we drove on to seventeen mile point, where we camped in a fine grove of timber near the Platte. The next day, after driving twenty miles, we found good timber and water, and camped for the night. Here we saw the first buffalo. Mr. Swigart singled out a fine heifer, and with an unerring aim, his rifle brought her to the ground. He also wounded another. The one he killed weighed five or six hundred pounds, and furnished sixty pounds of tallow, which our men made into candles. The meat was more sweet and tender than any beef I have ever eaten; we divided it among the whole train, and threw the skin away.

Tuesday we drove all day, making twenty miles, and

camped on the bank of the Platte opposite a timbered island, from whence our fuel was obtained in the following manner. A man took a yoke of oxen, mounted one of them, rode to the island, hitched to a dry log, and snaked it across the channel to the camp. During the evening several buffaloes came near the camp, and we concluded to make war upon them in the morning. Mr. Swigart, the Nimrod of the prairies, after a night of uneasy sleep and visions of buffaloes, was up before the sun, and in a very few minutes had killed two fine bulls within ten rods of each other. Whilst the men were dressing these, three more fell before his deadly aim. As our necessities were more than supplied, and any further slaughter would be a cruel waste of life, and gratify only a hunter's passion, I begged him to put up his rifle. These buffaloes weighed from 800 to 1,000 pounds each. The skins were very fine. We presented one to Mr. Stevens, of Saratoga, who had just overtaken us, bringing many little luxuries and tokens of a mother's love to his son, a lad of 15, a member of the company. Mr. S. was highly gratified as he gazed on the bleeding carcase of a buffalo, which his son had slain an hour before. Loading this into his wagon, as a trophy of his son's marksmanship, and bidding us all good-by, he set out on his return home. Our hunt and feast detained us one day, when a company from Nebraska City came up and camped with us. They had started from Nebraska City just one week before we left Omaha, and called the distance to Fort Kearney, by the road they traveled, 280

miles. The captain of this company was a Mr. Brown, who had passed over this route years before with Col. Fremont. Being familiar with the road, the country and the best camping places, his services to us were invaluable.

Thursday, Oct. 14. Starting at 8 p. m., we drove 17 miles, and camped at a fine spring, seven or eight miles from the Platte. Finding no fuel, we suffered some inconvenience in not being able to cook our supper or breakfast. The valley is rather low and wet along here; the river not always in sight. Our road to-day has kept near the bluff. A few straggling buffaloes were observed at a distance—the last we saw on our trip out. At this camp we met a company of engineers and surveyors, 15 in number, returning to the States. [Col. Landers' party, we suppose.]

Friday, Oct. 15. We traveled 12 miles and camped at Cottonwood Springs, a trading-post, stage station and post office. Here we found Richard Darling, an enterprising young man from Omaha, and an early settler in Nebraska. He was engaged in poisoning timber wolves for the sake of their skins, which are worth $2.50 each. Their fur is fine and valuable. These timber wolves are five or six times larger than the prairie wolf, or coyote. There are two kinds, the white and the black; the fur of the latter is most highly prized. We saw them in large numbers, following our trail day after day, for the crumbs and bones and broken-down oxen.

From Cottonwood Springs onward, no wood is found for a distance of more than 200 miles, except at one place,

where there are a few scraggy cottonwood trees. The country is entirely destitute of timber. To obtain a supply of fuel for this distance, we drove on from the spring three miles, where we halted, unhooked from our wagons, and with our cattle went four miles south of the road, where we found a large cedar grove in the ravines of the bluff. Many of the trees are dead, dry and very light. Cutting into logs 12 or 15 feet long what we wanted, we hauled them to the wagons and slung them beneath the axle trees. This supply furnished us with good fuel all the way to the mines. It being extremely light, but little weight was added to our loads. The water from Fort Kearney to the mines, except that of springs and the Platte, is brackish and alkaline, not fit for the use of man or beast. Our cattle, when thirsty, would drink it, but it always proved injurious to them. I frequently drove my oxen three and four miles to water. The water of the creeks in the mining region is pure, sweet and wholesome.

We have passed the junction of the north and south forks of the Platte, and are now on the south side of the south fork. The third day after leaving Cottonwood Springs we reached "O'Fallon's Bluff" about noon. This is a trading-post, stage station and post office. Here are the few cottonwoods before spoken of. Though insignificant in themselves considered, they are here, in this timberless waste, objects of profound respect.

Miners, spare those trees,
Touch not a single bough!

Two enterprising young men, Messrs. More and Grimes, have opened a store at this point. They are, or have been, acting as the agents of Government and Messrs. Majors & Russell. Late in the fall of 1856, while driving some five hundred head of cattle to Fort Laramie, they encountered a snow storm of unprecedented severity, in which every beast perished, and they themselves were badly frost-bitten. Their benevolence and hospitality filled our hearts with gratitude. The day not being spent, we hurried on 10 miles and camped. Two days more brought us to the Fort Laramie crossing, the ford where the military road crosses the south fork of the Platte.

Up to this point, all the way from Omaha, our road has been traveled by tens of thousands of California, Oregon and Salt Lake emigrants. This well beaten road now crosses the south fork, while *our road* to the *Gold Mines* continues on the south side of the "fork," and is very obscure at best, only three wagons having preceded us over it. This crossing, or ford, is 165 miles west from Fort Kearney. It is 150 miles to Fort Laramie, and about 180 miles to Fort Saint Vrain.

Our oxen, having filled themselves with rich grass, which they found on an island in the Platte, were in good condition to take an early start. The day wore slowly away; the country grows poorer, and our journey is monotonous.

The following day, something like a cloud, obscure and hazy, loomed up in the western horizon. The practiced eye of Mr. Brown detects the form, and he pronounces

them the Rocky mountains. Our glass brings out the clear outlines of Long's and Pike's Peaks.

Seventy-four miles from the ford brings us to Beaver creek. The banks are nearly one hundred feet high, and very steep. The stream is twenty feet wide, three feet deep, and the water very cold. Some of the men rode in on horseback, and guided the teams across after we had driven them into the water. This stream should be bridged; it is difficult to cross with a heavy load.

After crossing the Beaver, which consumed some time, we came upon an encampment of the Cheyenne Indians, who annoyed us much by their thieving propensities. One, who stole a ladle from my wagon, I caught and searched; but, not finding it about his person, I concluded he had tossed it into the grass, where I subsequently found it. In order to frighten our cattle, they spread themselves across the road, lying flat upon the grass. The presentation of our guns brought them to their feet and stopped their fun. They are armed with bows and arrows, and one white man with a gun can put a dozen of them to flight. They will do no harm to a company of ten to fifteen persons traveling together.

Beaver creek is the first running stream we have crossed since passing Fort Kearney, though we have passed several dry channels, where there is doubtless water part of the year. One of these channels was traced by some of our men for five or six miles toward its head, but no water found. The water of Beaver creek seems to be somewhat impregnated with alkali.

From here we toiled slowly and wearily onward 29 miles, to the second and last stream of running water between Fort Kearney and the mines. This is more alkaline than Beaver creek, and some of our cattle suffered from drinking it.

As we proceed westward the country becomes more broken, and the soil less fertile and more gravelly, producing abundance of cactus and soap weed—an evergreen, ten inches high, sharp-pointed and rigid, like a spear, and completely protected by its sharp spines from attack from any animal, either tame or wild. The root is used by the Indians to remove paint from their faces.

Our cattle hold out well; the grass, though thin and short, is very nutritious.

Twenty-five miles nearer to Long's Peak, which cuts clear against the western sky, we cross a dry channel which Col. Fremont reports, in his explorations, a running stream. We sent a party to explore its channel, who found water twelve miles above. The channel where we crossed is twenty rods wide. Half a mile beyond, we pitched our tents in a small cottonwood grove—the first timber we have seen since leaving Cottonwood Springs, a distance of 208 miles. Here a high, sandy bluff, striking out to the river, cuts off the road, and compels our train to climb its steep ascent and cross a wild ravine, after which the road is good and wood plenty.

Saturday evening, October 30, we halt at Saint Vrain's Fort. This was built by, and belongs to, and is used by,

traders, and was never occupied by troops. The building is about 200 feet long and 150 feet wide, and divided into several compartments. The roof is in ruins, but the walls, built of cement and gravel, intermixed with deer's hair, appear durable and solid.

For several days past, we have seen large herds of antelope. Our Nimrod slew one, which we dressed and cooked, and ate enough to satisfy us that the meat was inferior to deer or buffalo. To me it was decidedly distasteful. The antelope is less fleet than the deer, and more easily taken. The males have long horns, which increase with age. The oldest leads the herd, which invariably range themselves in the order of the length of their horns.

Saint Vrain's Fort is on the river, which here turns abruptly from a northern to an eastern course. Our road or track to Cherry creek—45 miles distant—here leaves the Platte, which we have followed for 500 miles, and bears south-east. I think a road may be made—perhaps not quite so level—from a point on the river many miles below the fort, and running directly to Cherry creek, leaving Saint Vrain far to the right, which will shorten the present traveled distance 45 miles.

Leaving the fort early in the morning, we traveled until noon, when a snow storm compelled us to halt. Up to this time, but one rain storm had occurred since we started, and this is our first snow, which fell to the depth of twelve inches.

Monday, November 1st, we pitched our camp in a grove,

two miles from the mouth of Cherry creek, making just 35 days from Omaha—distance 540 miles, as I reckon it, —our men all well and strong, our teams in good condition, only one animal having given out. Hopeful and strong, 540 miles from home, in a dreary wilderness of snow, hills and mountains; without a house to shelter us from the coming winter, necessarily inclement in this latitude and altitude; no fodder for our faithful but jaded cattle, except what they can get by browsing in the timber; we gathered our little company of gold hunters around the camp fire and discussed measures of importance to our present and future comfort. All agreed that we must have a house to live in; and to this end, I, being a practical carpenter, was selected to take charge of a part of the company and commence building, whilst the remainder of the company were to explore the country and gather information from the miners, select mining claims and a good point for a town site. The prospecting party was absent five days, during which time they examined the localities where the miners were at work, and found that, in spite of the snow, cold weather and freezing water, they were making, with the rudest implements, from *three* to *five dollars* per day. Our party also explored the country up to the foot of the Rocky mountains, near which they staked out claims for us all in this wise, which is in accordance with the rules adopted by the miners: each claim fronting one hundred feet on a creek or river, and running back any depth desired. They found indications of gold wherever they pros-

pected, and the *surface dirt* on the claims they made, yielded from *six* to *fifteen cents* to the pan, and grew richer as they dug deeper.

These claims front on Leroy creek,—which flows from the mountains to the Platte,—and are about fifteen miles from our camp. Didn't our new cottonwood log house—as yet without a roof—ring with three times three cheers when this report was made and unanimously adopted; and didn't our Nimrod and cook bestir themselves; and was ever dinner more hugely enjoyed than the one which quickly followed. Our table was of gold—being the auriferous sands of the earth—and so were our chairs, and our hopes.

All the mining ground on both sides of Cherry creek is claimed mostly by Mexicans, who are very taciturn, and refused our party the privilege of prospecting. They watched them while at work for an hour, and thought they averaged full twenty cents to the pan of earth, or one dollar per man each hour. Mr. Paine was permitted to test some dirt which they had washed and thrown aside, and obtained therefrom thirteen cents to the pan. The gold scales of this locality are exceedingly fine, and no doubt the same earth will be worked over again and again, and still pay.

It is the opinion of some in the mines, that the Cherry creek diggings are in Nebraska; but I am inclined to think they are south of the line. The richest mines yet discovered are on the north side of the South Platte, on the

Cache-la-Poudre river, a stream heading in latitude 41° north, and emptying into the South Platte in latitude 40½° north, about fifty miles travel a little east of north from the mouth of Cherry creek, and about the same distance nearer to Omaha. These mines, on the Cache-la-Poudre river, are worked by a company of twenty or thirty mountaineers, who have been in this region some three years; have prospected the country, mined at Cherry creek and at other localities, and selected their present location as paying the best. They came to my wagon with a buckskin bag of dust, and scales for weighing the same, and offered to purchase my load at my own price. I gave them a pound of soda and twenty onions, for which they gave me $5.50 in gold dust. The scales of gold from these mines are coarser than in the Cherry Creek mines, with some specimens of *round* or shot gold.

Cherry creek sinks in the sand, and entirely disappears, about four miles from the Platte; but no doubt there is plenty of water clear to its mouth a portion of the year.

Auraria is a new town, laid out between Cherry creek and the Platte, at their junction. One hundred log houses are being built on this site, by as many different persons, each being the owner of one share in the town. Each house above the hundred entitles the builder to one-fourth of one share.

Opposite Auraria, on the east side of Cherry creek, we laid out a town and called it Denver. It has since been made a county seat by the commissioners sent out by the

governor of Kansas to organize a county government in the mining region. Gen. Larimer & Co., of Leavenworth, have an interest in this town. We put up a claim house, to secure the site; and before returning, I contracted for the erection of a building 30 by 60 feet, for a hotel. It is to be built of hewed logs and covered with pine boards. I saw hundreds, perhaps thousands, of acres of pine timber, from fifteen to forty miles south. I think there will be a dozen saw mills at work in this pine forest before next June. Pike's Peak looms up far south of the pine region. To the west the peaks of the Rocky mountains run up like sugar loaves, looking more artificial than natural in their regularity.

The soil appears to me poor, and will not yield what would be called a good crop, but when corn and potatoes are worth $5 per bushel, farming will pay in the mines. Tillage and manure will add to its productiveness, and no doubt many kinds of vegetables will be produced in fair quantities. Our house was built of cottonwood logs, and covered with split poles and dirt. When banking up around it we tested the soil, and found convincing indications of gold.

I spent 17 days in the mines, employed most of the time in hauling logs and building. One small store has been opened in Auraria, dealing principally in watered whisky.

As over 1,000 men are wintering in the mines near Cherry creek, and provisions are comparatively scarce,

the necessaries of life must bring fabulous prices before spring. Game is not plenty within a radius of 20 miles. The miners think that herds will come down from the mountains as the winter advances. Our men, while prospecting, killed twelve deer, which were very poor. No bears were seen. I am satisfied the mines are extensive, and will pay handsomely. Such is also the opinion of Californians who have had long experience in gold-hunting.

Gen. Larimer, who headed the company from Leavenworth, Kansas, came by the Santa Fe route, and traveled over 800 miles to reach the mines.

Having eaten in seven weeks nearly one-half of our six months' provisions, we called a meeting of the company, who resolved that some one must return to Omaha for a new supply. The journey seemed a hazardous one from the fact that we had nothing to feed our cattle on the way. But necessity knows no compromise. *I* was selected to return. Twenty others agreed to accompany me, but when the day of starting arrived, only twelve dare venture the trip. We had one team of three yoke, and another with two yoke of oxen, and two express wagons drawn by two pair of mules each. The ox teams started two days in advance, and were overtaken 200 miles out. The first day the snow fell rapidly, and the wind blew strong. For three days our cattle lived on browse exclusively, as we had no corn or meal to feed them. After the browse failed, and our mattrass had been emptied of all the hay it contained, we gathered the dead grass by the roadside, which

the famished cattle devoured eagerly. We found a small supply of hay at O'Fallon's bluff, Cottonwood Springs and Fort Kearney. About 50 miles east of the Laramie ford of South Platte, we were overtaken by a severe snow storm, accompanied by a freezing north-west wind. The two men with me being poorly clad for such a storm, remained in the wagon, which was covered with thin canvas, while I, putting on all the clothing I had with me, viz.: three pair of pants, three vests, three coats and two overcoats, drove the team. When night came on we halted in the open prairie, with nothing to protect us from the fury of the gale, unyoked our cattle, chained the wagons together to keep them from blowing over, and turned in to seek what protection we could from the snow and cold, among our buffalo robes and blankets; but it was too cold to sleep much, and one of my feet was so badly frozen during the night, that I was hardly able to walk for several days after. The men with me did not freeze at all. The men with the other ox team had a small camp stove in their wagon, and got along more comfortably. Our cattle suffered most severely, and we pitied them from our hearts. Half famished, and with but little animal heat, they were ill prepared to resist such a storm. They huddled together under the lee of the wagons, and stood shivering through the long cold night. The feet of two of them were so badly frozen that they could not travel, and we had to leave them behind.

The party with the mule teams suffered yet more severely

than ourselves. Two of them had their feet, hands, noses and ears frozen. During the night they took turns getting out of the wagon and exercising the mules to keep them from freezing, and yet two were frozen to death.

Had our wagon been made tight, and warmly covered, and our cattle covered with canvas when resting, and properly fed, or had we started one week earlier, or one week later, no such suffering and disaster would have befallen us. With my present experience and knowledge of what is necessary, I would have no fear in passing over the same route in mid-winter.

At early daybreak, crawling out from under our snow-covered blankets, and arousing our teams, we hitched them to our wagons, and urged them along all day in the storm, both for their safety and ours. It was night when we reached O'Fallon's bluff, where, finding hay for our cattle, we rested one day. Several mule teams from Fort Bridger passed us here. They suffered severely from the cold, as the balance of us. The weather moderating a little while here, we again started, and experienced no more severe suffering from cold, but our oxen began to fail us near Fort Kearney. Their feet were more or less frozen, and their strength exhausted from want of food.

We left the mines with five yoke, and got to Omaha with only one yoke and two odd ones, on Monday evening, December 20th, having been thirty-three days on the way. Had the weather been good, and our cattle well fed, four weeks would have brought us through.

Mule or horse teams, with light loads, can go through in fifteen days. The mail from Omaha to Fort Kearney, 189 miles on the road to the mines, has been put through in twenty-four hours traveling time; this, however, is by extra driving.

Yours truly,

M. D. DOWNS.

STATEMENT OF MESSRS. WYNKOOP AND STEINBERGER.

MESSRS. E. W. WYNKOOP and A. B. STEINBERGER left Cherry creek on the third day of December, 1858, and arrived at Omaha on the fifth day of January, 1859, having lost several days, and making the trip in between twenty-eight and twenty-nine days' travel. Mr. Wynkoop is a citizen of Lecompton, in Kansas. He was commissioned by Governor Denver, of Kansas, sheriff of Arapaho county, embracing the Cherry creek mining country, and went out in pursuance of his duty in that office. He left Leavenworth on the 22nd day of September, and was forty-four traveling days in reaching Cherry creek. Mr. W. pronounces the distance from Leavenworth to Cherry creek, by the Arkansas route, 855 miles; by Fort Kearney and the Platte route, 685 miles, and *from Omaha to Cherry creek, 583 miles.*

Mr. Steinberger is a citizen of Bellevue, in this Territory. He went out to the mines in October last, and has returned for supplies, and designs going out again soon. Mr. Wynkoop designs returning in March next. At our request they have furnished us the following statement of their experience in the mines, and their impressions of the country.

Omaha, N. T., Jan. 8, 1859.

MESSRS. BYERS AND KELLOM—

Gentlemen:

In compliance with your request, we will proceed to give you our impressions of the mining region on the head waters of the South Platte. We regret that our description of the country cannot be more complete; but, having kept no notes of our observations after reaching the mines, we are under the necessity of giving this statement from memory alone.

We think the mouth of Cherry creek is about six miles south of the Kansas and Nebraska line, but there have been no observations made by which its location can be exactly determined. This creek heads in a *mesa*, or elevated table land jutting out from the mountain range far into the plain, and forming the divide between the waters flowing into the Arkansas on the south and the Platte on the north. The source is about twenty-five miles in a north-east direction from Pike's Peak; from thence it flows in a general course a little east of north, for thirty-five miles, and empties into the Platte. To a point within fifteen miles of its mouth it flows between continuous forests of most excellent pine timber, growing on the ridges on either side. Gold has been found all along Cherry creek, wherever any prospecting has been done, or nearly to its head.

The principal mines now worked are on the south bank of the Platte, about three miles above the mouth of Cherry

creek. A party from Kansas City, Mo., and some Germans are working them, and doing well. Among those from Kansas City we can name a Mr. Winchester and Captain Price. One of the Germans sold $60 of dust to a Mr. O'Donnell just before we left, and said he still had $350, the product of his own work. We met another German, one day, in this neighborhood, who showed us the gold he had gathered in three or four hours, amounting to six or seven dollars; the largest specimen was worth about seventy-five cents.

Dry creek comes in seven and a half miles above Cherry creek. Here the Georgia company have done some work, and state that they took out $892 from a hole having a front of about twenty feet and running to a point back about thirty feet.

Sand creek, three miles above. Gold has been found here, but the stream is now dry, and no work being done in the vicinity.

These are the only streams coming in from the south on which gold has been discovered; in fact, the only ones that have been prospected.

From here we followed up the Platte about thirty miles from Cherry creek, finding gold all the way to the mouth of the canon; here the river cuts through the first ridge of the mountains by an impassable gorge or canon. Diverging from the course of the river, further to the north, we passed over this first ridge, and entered a lateral valley some three or four miles in width, which the river

crosses at right angles. Along the west side of this valley we observed great quantities of white and crystalized quartz rock, cropping out of the hillsides, in cliffs many feet in height. We did not prospect for gold, but proceeded to climb the second ridge, on the summit of which we found the snow waist deep. Looking down upon the other side, we saw spread before us a most beautiful and romantic valley, meandered by streams and interspersed with dense groves of pine and cedar timber. In it there was no snow, and on the west it seemed bounded by a great snowy ridge or range. Its extent seemed about fifteen miles from east to west, and extending a great distance north and south.

The Georgia Company, who have penetrated this second valley, say that they have found gold therein, as well as in the first. Retracing our steps, we again crossed the first valley, in which we found great numbers of black-tailed deer, and on the ridges saw many mountain sheep. The earth in this valley is reddish in color, and there are great masses of soft red rock, much water worn. Passing north, we prospected on the tributaries of the North Fork of South Platte, where it cuts across this same lateral valley, and found gold. This stream unites with the South Fork about eight miles above Cherry creek; twelve miles above its mouth it divides, and the branches leave the mountain ridge about four miles apart. From the prospect and indications, we believe the vicinity of this stream to be *exceedingly rich* in gold—far richer than Cherry creek.

Long's Creek heads in Long's peak, by two branches, Vascar's fork and Rallston's fork; they unite about eight miles above the mouth, and empty into the Platte eight miles below the mouth of Cherry creek. On Rallston's fork some very rich diggings have been found, and preparations are now being made to work them with long toms and sluices. The dirt in these mines pays from the surface, increasing in richness as it descends; this is near where the Fort Laramie road crosses the creek. We have been told that in 1849, a company of men on their way to California, halted here a few hours, and while stopping, one of them washed out several dollars worth of gold, and as much as four dollars from one pan.

Saint Vrain's Creek empties into the Platte, opposite the Fort of the same name; it is a small stream, and has not been much prospected, but some gold has been found on it.

Thompson's Creek, three miles further down, is a most beautiful stream; has been prospected to some extent, and good diggings found two and a half miles above its mouth.

Cache-a-la-Poudre river joins the Platte a short distance below Saint Vrain's Fort; it heads far to the north-west, in the Medicine-Bow mountains. It has been extensively prospected, and good diggings found all along it for twenty-five miles above its mouth. We have it from what we believe good authority, that coarse gold has been found on this stream. We know of no gold having been found on any stream lower down the river.

About eighty miles in a straight line west from Cherry creek, in a lofty cross-ridge of the mountains, where the Platte, Arkansas, Rio Grande and Colorado rivers all head very near together, is believed, by the mountaineers and others acquainted with the country, to be the great fountain-head of the gold region.

A party will set out early in the coming spring, under the guidance of experienced mountain-men, to explore this *terra incognita*, and prove the truth or falsity of the theory and suppositions.

In regard to the productiveness of the country—we have a very high opinion of all the vallies of the rivers and creeks; beyond this, the soil is sterile and barren. We have seen corn and vegetables grown on the farm of Charles Autabees,—on the Arkansas river, near the mouth of the *Fontain qui Bouille*, just south of Pike's Peak, and only about eighty miles from the mouth of Cherry creek on a direct line,—which seemed as large and good as the same productions in the vallies of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers; but to produce these crops, it was necessary to resort to irrigation; which plan will have to be pursued in the vallies of the Plattes and their tributaries.

This section of country has long been the chosen abode of many hardy, intrepid mountaineers; men who have grown old in experience, and become celebrated as Indian interpreters and guides. Around their cheering lodge-fires they tell the tales of their perils and their hardships,

in the fastnesses of the Rocky mountains, and on the great plains.

John Smith — whom the Indians call Tashonahata, or White Blanket — the celebrated Cheyenne interpreter — and said to be the only one living — has dwelt thirty years in the mountains. His experience extends over a vast area of country, from the head waters of the Missouri and the North Pass, to the confines of Mexico. This hardy pioneer and intelligent gentleman now dwells among the settlers of the South Platte, who all profit by his experience and knowledge.

William McGaa, better known as Jack Jones, long in the confidence of the Crow nation, the friend and associate of Jim Beckwourth, the white chief of the Crows, is now permanently located at the mouth of Cherry creek. His fearlessness as an explorer and guide, and his well known hospitality, have secured for him, among the settlers, an army of friends.

Antoine Jeniss, of wide celebrity for many years, is now encamped at the mouth of Thompson's creek, with a large outfit and stock of provisions. Toil and privation have not damped the ardor of this *Prince of Mountaineers*. For years he has ridden, smoked, fought and traded with the Utah Indians, who but seldom leave the fastnesses of their mountain home. Now, the same country he will penetrate at the head of a chosen party, and the result of his next spring's explorations may be looked for as one of

the most important expeditions ever undertaken, looking, as it does, to a most complete examination of that great interior mountain region, where the golden fountain is believed to exist.

We are very truly yours, &c.

EDWARD W. WYNKOOP,
ALBERT B. STEINBERGER.

TOOLS TO BE USED IN THE MINES.

These are the shovel, pick, pan, cradle, and long tom.

The *Pan* for washing holds about ten quarts, more "flaring" than a milk pan, made of tin or sheet iron, with a strong rim around the top.

The *Cradle* differs from the baby's cradle in having *no foot board*, and the head rocker twice as high as the foot rocker. About eighteen inches from the head, fasten a bar across the top, on which the sieve is to rest, which is a rough box with a sheet iron bottom, punched with holes half or three-quarters of an inch in diameter. Under the sieve, an "apron," or strong piece of cloth is stretched from side to side, the bottom being about six inches from the head, and the top inclining toward the foot, and eighteen inches from the head. As the water and dirt are put into the sieve, the cradle set a-rocking, the fine dirt, and gold and water pass through the sieve and fall upon the apron, which turns them toward the head. A bar about one inch thick, nailed across the bottom of the cradle, and just above the middle, and another not quite as thick at the foot, and the cradle is ready for use.

The *Long Tom* is a trough from ten to twenty feet long, and from one to two feet wide. The side boards project some eighteen inches beyond the bottom board at one end, and are shaped like two sleigh runners. A sheet iron sieve is nailed to the bottom of the trough and these projecting ends. When used, the *Tom* is inclined—the sieve end being the lowest, and placed directly over the "riffle box," which is nothing more than the cradle without the apron and sieve. As the water is poured into the upper end of the *Tom*, the fine dirt and gold scales descend through the sieve into the riffle box.

LETTERS, ETC.

The writer of the following letter is personally known by many citizens in Omaha. The letter possesses interest from the fact that it contains early reliable news from the mines.

BACHELOR RANCHE, CHERRY CREEK, N. T.
September 5th, 1858.

DEAR FRIEND:

We have been here nearly one month now, and expect to keep our rancho here for many months to come. Our party consists of four persons, all told. Two of them, F—— and L——, have been down with the fever and ague, but will be able to work, I hope, in a week or so. After parting with you at Fort Laramie, I did nothing for a time but endeavor to find out if there was any truth in those wild gold stories we heard beyond Laramie, which were starting the mountaineers off there like mad. I traveled up and down the creek, on my pony, for full fifty miles, and found men mining—almost entirely without tools, only with such cooking utensils as any camp could furnish. The number on Cherry creek, and the little ravines emptying into it, had numbers of miners' camps, and hundreds of men working. From my personal observation, I judge there must be from four to six hundred men already on this creek, and all doing well.

* * * * * *

Famous stories of better diggings have been reported below us, or rather up the creek, but the average has been some eleven dollars a day, with common pans, where we are, and that seems to satisfy the most of the boys along here. We want tools to work with worse than anything else. We want reading matter also.

* * * * * *

We are now getting our winter's supply of fodder for cattle ready, and expect to secure meat enough for ourselves for winter, in a short

time; but we need salt badly. I worked with a pan about two weeks in the water—caught cold, and had a hard time generally—but made an average of some ten dollars per day.

* * * * * *

We are now fixing for winter on a little timbered ravine, some forty-five or fifty miles from the mouth of the creek. *

The following letter was written to the editor of the Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

CAMP ON SOUTH PLATTE, 150 MLS. ABOVE KEARNEY,
Saturday, October 16th, 1858.

MR. EDITOR:

We arrived here night before last, and have been waiting here to recruit our stock and to enable some of our party, who went back to Kearney to buy cattle, to overtake us. We lost thirteen head of cattle about forty miles this side of Fort Kearney, and sent back Messrs. Highley, Hazard and Reed, to buy others. Mr. Highley overtook us night before last, and reported that the cattle and the other boys were behind with Williams & Blake's train. Hazard had the ague and Reed has a collar-bone and shoulder-blade broken. Under the circumstances we thought it best to remain here and send back for them. John Graves, with the mule team, and Foster and Knight were accordingly sent back, and have returned since I commenced writing, bringing with them the invalids and seven head of cattle. With these I think we shall be able to get through without trouble.

I have had no trouble in the train since Smith left with his party. It is a part of our agreement, that in case any one in the train is disabled from proceeding, the others shall help him through.

At the time the cattle stampeded, Smith was so fortunate as to recover all of his, and then he concluded to go ahead.

Col. Lander, superintendent of the Pacific Wagon Road, passed down with his train yesterday. He has constructed the road from

the South Pass to Fort Hall, in less than one-half the time, and at one-half the expense, estimated by the Department at Washington.

We met a party of fifteen men from Cherry creek, a few days since. They were going into the States to winter, but all expected to return in the spring. They had the dust, and assured us that the mines would pay well. All are making from three to twelve dollars a day, and some much more.

We have had no sickness in the train, except ague, and are, I think, getting along finely. Preston, Diltes, Holloway, Ritter, Dillin, Clark, Cole, Hickey and Lusby, have been shaking, and Reed was thrown from his horse and injured, as before stated.

We have been traveling among the Indians for the past week. They are Cheyennes and Ogallallah Sioux. They are friendly, but great beggars, and not to be trusted. They are all well supplied with ponies, robes, guns, and the finest lodges I ever saw; they are made of skins tanned white as cloth, and many of them are twenty feet in diameter. They have driven all the buffalo out of the valley, and we were without fresh meat for several days; but last night Diltes, Cruse and McDonald killed one on the hills, about three miles from camp.

We start at one o'clock, and I must now close, and make preparations for moving.

Very truly yours,

SAM. S. CURTIS.

By the same, to his brother living in Omaha, both being sons of the Hon. S. R. Curtis, who so ably represents the State of Iowa in Congress.

WINTER QUARTERS, 2½ miles below CHERRY CREEK,
Tuesday, November 2nd, 1858.

DEAR HENRY:

Behold us at last at our journey's end, all well and hearty!

* * * Our shanty is about half finished. We will

probably get into it on Thursday. The days are warm and pleasant, but the nights are cold.

* * * * * * * * * *

I was up to the mouth of Cherry creek, yesterday, at the organization of the AURORA town company. It is going to be THE place; one hundred original stockholders are each to build a house. If present prospects are realized in the spring, *come out as early as possible.*

* * * I think we will make something this winter (when it is too cold to mine) sawing lumber with our whip saw, as there will be a great demand for it in the spring, to make long-toms, cradles, sluices, etc.

We are living on antelope and venison. Antelope is ahead of any meat I ever tasted. We are about twenty miles from the mountains, and they loom up like a steamboat in a fog.

I must get to sawing logs to cover the house.

I send you 37½ cents in Cherry creek gold, in its native purity.

Yours, truly,

SAM. S. CURTIS.

The Kansas *Weekly Press* says:

After the recent conflicting reports, we take pleasure in laying before our readers undoubted evidence of the existence of gold in large quantities on our western borders. On Friday, Mr. A. M. Smith — a gentleman known to Mr. Brace, our postmaster, and to other parties here and in St. Joseph, as a man whose testimony can be relied upon — arrived in Elwood from Nemaha county. Mr. Smith has lately seen a kettle of gold dust, brought by his friend Mr. Robinson, from Cherry creek, valued at from $6,000 to $7,000. Mr. Robinson only left Pottawattamie county in May for the gold region. He was thirty days in going there, and has returned in twenty-eight days — although he had to make a road for himself.

some portion of the way. He went well prepared to work in the mines, and had two men to assist him. The three were about two months in obtaining the dust he brought back. He found good feed for his cattle on both trips, and says there is plenty of grass at Cherry creek in summer. It had not snowed when he left, but was cold and the mines could not be worked to advantage. No trouble was experienced from the Indians. Mr. Robinson will return in season for the opening of spring. Mr. Smith lives at Richmond. He says that all those returned from the mines bring favorable reports — that the cries of "humbug," invariably come from parties who have been to Salt Lake only, and never from Cherry creek parties. He has seen considerable gold brought from there, but in no instance in so large a quantity as that brought by Mr. Robinson and his friends.

We have given this report in full because there is no doubt about its authenticity, and because it is the largest amount of dust that has yet arrived. Larger stories have been told, but we have not been able to believe them.

From the St. Louis Republican.

PIKE'S PEAK.

The diggings are not, as many suppose, at Pike's Peak, but some distance from it, the Peak being in the range of the mountains and the mines on the Platte river, about three miles above the mouth of Cherry creek. I say the *mines*, merely to designate the place occupied by the first miners, for the "precious metal" exists, and has been found all through that part of the country, and the richest deposits, I believe, will yet be found much nearer the mountains, or higher up the Platte. The mines are easy of access — the best route, in my opinion, being the old military road, until where it crosses the south fork of the Platte river, about one hundred and sixty-five miles beyond Fort Kearney, and from thence directly up

the Platte, thus securing a good supply of wood, water and grass. There is but little wood for about sixty miles above the crossing, after which there is the greatest abundance.

The heaviest wagons can find a good road, having but one or two insignificant streams to cross. From Fort Kearney to the crossing, there are, at all seasons, plenty of buffaloes, and above the crossing, antelope is in great abundance.

At the time of leaving the mines (20th September) there was a company of about fifty men at work. Upon inquiry, they stated they could make from one to eight dollars per day, and that the dirt averaged about eight cents to the pan. They were making preparations for wintering, well satisfied that they could make it pay in the spring. They were digging near the Platte river, carrying the dirt to the water in buckets for washing. The gold is found from two to four feet from the surface, in a thin layer of sand and boulders, on top of a hard clay, is in thin scales, and has every appearance of being washed and deposited there by water. There is no quartz with it, except small boulders, showing attrition by water.

There is plenty of cottonwood timber on the Platte and tributaries, and the bottom land will admit of cultivation, with every facility for irrigation. There are plenty of white-tailed deer in the timber on the streams, black-tailed deer, elk and bear in the mountains, and thousands of antelope on the plains. The buffalo do not range in that part of the country, and have not for several years. It is a beautiful and extremely healthy country, and those disappointed in the gold mines will find much to repay them for the trip.

I am well satisfied that a full development of the country will bring to light rich mineral deposits of various kinds.

The gold found is pronounced to be of the very best quality. I met numbers *en route* for the mines; but think it too late to go out, as they will necessarily be under heavy expense all winter, and unable to work. There is no danger of any one suffering for want of provisions, as all were supplied with rations for several months, and many were taking out provisions for sale. The Indians are at

present peaceably disposed, and will not trouble the miners except by begging. They seem to look upon the occupation of their country as a matter of course, and say they will not attempt resistance, as they wisely conclude it would result to their own injury.

ONE FROM PIKE'S PEAK.

From the Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

The following letter from Sam. S. Curtis, speaks for itself. To those acquainted with Mr. C., not a word is necessary to insure credence to his statements. To those unacquainted with him, we would say, that he is a son of Col. S. R. Curtis, member of Congress from this District, and that any statement he may make can be relied upon to the letter:

WINTER QUARTERS, 2½ Miles below CHERRY CREEK,
Saturday, October 30th, 1858.

MR. EDITOR:

My last was addressed to you from about the crossing of the Platte, and I now have another opportunity of sending a few lines. We arrived here about two o'clock P. M., to-day, tired of travel, and very glad to reach our destination before the falling of the snow. Gold is found here everywhere, in small quantities, but the best diggings are on Dry and Cherry creeks, and cannot be worked at present, owing to the scarcity of water.

There is said to be some digging being done on the banks of the Platte, about ten miles above here, but the water is so cold that but little can be done. The ice is running in the mornings, but still the miners are making in these diggings (which would not be worked in the spring or summer) from two to five dollars per day.

We feel perfectly satisfied with regard to the gold, and have but

little fear of "Old Winter." We have as good a place to winter as could be found around Council Bluffs. It is a small bend of the Platte, filled with young cottonwood, from six to 18 inches in diameter, and will "cut" two or three house-logs to the tree.

Deer, antelope, turkey and sage hens are abundant, and there are some panthers and bears in the timber. There was a little fall of snow here about a week ago, which drove down some black-tailed deer from the mountains; and, it is said, that when cold weather comes on they will be very plenty. It is late, and as this must go in the morning, I must close. As soon as we are fixed for the winter I will write you more at length.

Till then, yours, truly, SAM. S. CURTIS.

From the St. Joseph Gazette.

WE are informed that rich gold specimens have been discovered on North Platte, at a point much nearer than Cherry creek. We are assured that specimens have been taken out which weigh two ounces. If this report be verified—and we certainly see no reason why gold is not as likely to exist on North Platte—the extent of the gold fields of Nebraska (for those now worked are in Nebraska) will rival those of California. In our paper to-day, we give several letters and other interesting matter on this subject. It will be seen that there has already sprung up, a considerable village at the mouth of Cherry creek. We see, from our Omaha exchanges, that a paper is to be published there at the earliest practicable day in spring; and thus is laid the foundation of a new community, which will soon grow to be one of the States of the Union. A region of which absolutely nothing was known twenty years ago, and which has until the past few months been regarded as a waste and a barrier between the States of the Atlantic and the Pacific, will prove one of the most efficient means of uniting the extremes of the continent.

From the Council Bluffs Bugle.

THE SOUTH PLATTE GOLD MINES.

There is no further dispute as to the existence of gold on the South Platte river, within five hundred miles of this city; but the question is, "Will it pay to go there?" We think there can be no doubt but these mines will pay as well as those of California. Those that have been there all unite in saying that the country bears the same description as the gold region of California.

Mr. B. Hewitt, of this place, received a letter from a cousin, who has been at the mines since July last, and is still there, and doing well. He says that there is plenty of gold there, that he is making from five to eight dollars per day with his shovel and pan, and thinks, if he was fixed out with a rocker, as he used to be in California, he could make from fifteen to twenty dollars per day. At the time he wrote, he had made $750, and says, if he had a broad-ax and other tools, so that he could make a "long tom," that he could make from fifteen to twenty dollars per day.

He advises his cousin to come on early in the spring, and pay no attention to any unfavorable reports concerning the mines. He says that there are about a thousand persons in the mines; that provisions are scarce and high—flour thirty dollars per hundred.

Mr. Hewitt intends to leave early in the spring, where he expects to find his cousin, who promised to have a claim ready made and staked off for him. Those wishing to go in Mr. Hewitt's train must come on early in the spring.

From the Council Bluffs Bugle.

ONLY EIGHTEEN DAYS FROM THE MINES—THE OLD MORMON TRAIL THE BEST ROUTE.

Mr. Ritchman, who went out with the Council Bluffs train to the South Platte gold mines, returned on the 23rd instant, being only

eighteen days out from the mines, and brought from forty to fifty letters from the boys in the mines to their friends in this place. He also brought back about twenty dollars' worth of the "dust." He arrived at the mines on the 30th October and left on the 5th November. He returns for the purpose of aiding his father to go out, and intends to start back in a few days. He brought us a letter from W. R. Reed, who had been in our employ over a year before his departure for the mines, which we publish below.

Mr. Ritchman says that the miners who have been there long enough to get permanently located and at work, are making, without the aid of long toms or rockers, from $2.50 to $20 per day.

While Mr. Ritchman was there, he saw three dollars and fifty cents worth of gold washed out of a single panfull of dirt. The largest piece of gold found while he was there, that came under his notice, was worth forty-four cents. Old miners have prospected for round gold, and find it in several places, but always in small pieces. He thinks, when the snow is melted off in the spring, so that the miners can work in the gulches in the mountains, that round gold will be found in more abundance and in larger pieces.

He experienced no difficulty in coming in. He came down the north side of the Platte river.

Mr. Reed, who has been once from Council Bluffs over land to California, and three times to Great Salt Lake City, and knows the road "like a book," advises all to keep the old Mormon road up the north side of the Platte to Fort Laramie, in preference to the military road, which he traveled from Fort Kearney to Fort Laramie, on the south side of the Platte. We publish Mr. Reed's letter, *verbatim et literatim*. It is written in regular frontier and emigrant style, and contains many things not interesting to gold hunters, but particularly interesting to his numerous friends here. Hope "Bob" may have better luck hereafter.

MR. REED'S LETTER.

WINTER QUARTERS, 2½ MILES FROM CHERRY CREEK,
75 MILES FROM PIKE'S PEAK, *Nov.* 1, 1858.

FRIENDS:

We arrived here on the 30th October, and during the night there was a heavy snow storm; snow fell about a foot deep. This gave the boys the blues. They will have their houses completed to-morrow. Knight and S. Dillin have split, and I am with Jack the butcher; he has been here about ten days; he sends his best respects to you. I have had luck on this trip—lost my cattle and broke my shoulder all to smash running after buffalo. I went back to Fort Kearney, and traded my pony for cattle, and got my shoulder set, and started back. The boys agreed to wait for me forty miles above Kearney; but when I got there, they had left. John Harsed was with me; he had bought two yoke of cattle. When we arrived at Cottonwood Springs, we learned that the boys were three days ahead of us; so we pushed on and caught them 160 miles from Fort Kearney. I gave them a good blessing for leaving us. We had no grub with us, and had to beg our way; and two days we were without a bite. Don't you think I "cussed" them? I left S. Dillin, and Jack took me in. My shoulder is getting so I can use it a little.

About the gold. About two weeks before I got here, there were some men going to the States; they showed me $100 worth of the stuff. The man that carries this letter has $12.50 worth of the gold. There can't be any mining done this winter. I believe that the gold is here. There are some men at work, and are making from one to three dollars a day—that is, on the Platte. Mr. Hooton, if you do come out, don't take the Military road; take the old Mormon road. Be sure and take plenty of team. The worst of the road is after you cross the Platte. I would write a lot more, but my arm hurts me so I can't write. Send me a newspaper; I have nothing to read but that Bible you gave me. Jack sends his best respects to Dodge and Kate, and to Mrs. Babbitt.

No more at present. Write as soon as you can; send your letters to Fort Laramie. Your friend, W. R. REED.

From the St. Louis Democrat, Nov. 23.

We had a visit yesterday afternoon from Mr. J. G. Miller, of Danby, Tompkins county, N. Y., who has just returned from the gold diggings on the South Platte. Mr. Miller had some specimens of the precious ore with him, which are of a fine description. He states that the earnings of the members of the Lawrence Company, to which he belonged, were from two to five dollars per day, obtained from pan washings; but that if they had been provided with proper utensils and machinery, they could have realized from twenty to thirty dollars per day.

The amount of gold, Mr. M. thinks, is not so extensive as reported by some, yet there will be a remunerative yield to all who engage in seeking it. The living at the mines has been excellent, there being plenty of game in the vicinity, which is obtained without much difficulty. The Lawrence company were in camp five months, worked hard, and had no sickness. The climate was delightful, and all had much improved in health. Mr. M. is on his way home to spread the news among his neighbors, and will return in the spring, when he thinks there will be an immense rush to the gold fields. A number of the miners would remain on the ground during the winter, and no fears were entertained of unusual suffering.

Correspondence of the Leavenworth Times.

SOUTH PLATTE GOLD MINES, AURARIA CITY, *November* 11, 1858.

I will give a short history of our mining. Thirteen of us moving up the river, or the South Platte, toward the mountains, Mr. Green Russell, an experienced miner, discovered a deposit eight miles above where Cherry creek empties into the Platte. This was the first mine that would pay to work in any shape, or with any kind of implements.

We worked this mine some eight or ten days, with small cradles, realizing from five to eight dollars per day. At the end of this time, the mine not paying as well as we could wish, we set out on another prospecting tour, and discovered another deposit richer than the first; this we worked some two weeks, realizing from four to six-

teen and a half dollars per day to the hand. Mr. Russell panned one panful of gravel taken from the deposit, that yielded three dollars and forty-six cents. At the end of said time, this mine not paying more than three or four dollars per day, we set out on another prospecting tour, and discovered another deposit rather more extensive, that yielded on an average, the same as the two former.

These deposits were about four miles apart. Having worked this mine some eight or ten days, we set out to prospect the Platte as far as the snow range in the Rocky mountains. We continued up said river about eighty miles, and finding only fine drift gold, and our provisions being exhausted, we were obliged to return to camp.

Here we found an old mountaineer by the name of Smith, who had not seen any white men for about six weeks. We greeted him with exceeding great joy. After recruiting ourselves for a few days we set out on another prospecting tour, which was to include Cherry creek, Sand creek and their tributaries, embracing a district about forty miles square; here our prospects amounted to from one to five cents per pan of gravel—being better on the former than on the latter.

We also prospected the Fontaine qui Boville, and in the vicinity of Pike's Peak—in this quarter where Mr. King reports so much gold—we could not get what a miner calls a good color. After perambulating around in this part for some time, we returned to the crossing of the Platte; from thence we determined to go North and prospect the Black Hills, Medicine Bow Mountains and the North Platte, distant about two hundred miles from the crossing of the South Platte.

Leaving the crossing about the 1st of September, we prospected on our way, finding drift gold in all the creeks, averaging one cent's worth of dust to the pan of gravel. When within fifteen miles of the North Platte, we were visited by a violent snow storm, which induced us to return to the South Platte to spend the winter.

When we arrived at the crossing we were surprised to find some fifty men, who having heard our discoveries, came up to the mines. They having prospected Fontaine qui Boville and in the vicinity of Pike's Peak, and not finding any gold, determined to prospect the northern part of New Mexico, having heard of some mines in that country; but after prospecting some time and not discovering anything more, and having heard that we were doing well, they determined to come to the Platte. * * * *

I am perfectly satisfied that an industrious man can make from two and a half to fifteen dollars per day, according to the richness of his claim, and the chance of getting water on the same. Mining

operations are suspended at present and will be until spring. There will be from five hundred to one thousand men here this winter, all ready to commence mining in the spring. * * *

There has been about 1,500 pwts. taken out of these mines up to this time, and one small company has taken out at least two-thirds of that amount. If the source of this gold is discovered it may pay well, but that is all conjecture and supposition.

Yours truly, McKINNIS.

Mr. Richards resigned his seat in the City Council of Omaha, before going to the mines.

WINTER QUARTERS ON PLATTE,
TWO MILES FROM MOUTH OF CHERRY CREEK,
October 30th, 1858.

S. A. MEGEATH, Esq.:

Dear Sir:

We arrived to-day all well and hearty. Our cattle stood it tolerably well, considering our loss by a stampede, which occurred about forty miles this side of Fort Kearney, by which we lost one yoke of cattle. But we were fortunate enough to obtain another yoke at the Fort, which enabled us to get through. We are two miles east of Cherry creek, five miles from the foot of the mountains, and have a good view of Pike's Peak, which is seventy miles from the mouth of Cherry creek. We saw a great many Indians, both Cheyennes and Sioux, but experienced no difficulty with them, more than having to drive late sometimes to get away from them to camp.

Concerning the gold mines I can say but very little of what I have seen myself, for I have not had time yet to prospect any, but I will relate what I have reason to believe, from what I am told by persons who have been here long enough to look around some. One of our party, whom we sent in advance of the train to select our quarters, in company with Kearney Smith, prospected thirteen days before we arrived, and both tell about the same thing concerning the chance for gold. I saw myself, a pan washed by Mr. Graves' party, who got here a day before us, from which the dirt yielded twenty or twenty-five small scales; there was but a shovel full of dirt, and it was taken from the Platte bottom, just where we are camped. All the sand which I have seen that contains gold, strongly resembled

the black drying sand used for drying ink. Mr. Smith told me that he had prospected a section of about fifteen miles square, above Cherry creek, running up the Platte and the creek; also both sides of a ravine called Dry creek, which contains no water now, and wherever he washed a shovel full of surface dirt he got from four to twenty cents to the shovel. He thinks that the most gold can be obtained on Dry creek, but there is no water in it from about July until spring. The most of the mining has been on the Platte, for Cherry creek has been dry for four miles from its mouth since the middle of August. The Georgia company mined about two weeks in September, and made eighteen hundred dollars. I am told that six mountain men have been working at the mouth of Cherry creek up to the day that we arrived here, and made from five to ten dollars per day, each, by washing with rockers in old diggings. The averages depth to the bed rock at the points of the hills is six feet.

Some Mexicans packed over some flour and could not sell it for $12 per hundred, so they took it down to trade with the Indians; but flour and groceries will be in demand in the spring at good prices. The distance, the route we came, up the South Fork of the Platte, is 570 miles. The distance from here to Fort Laramie is about 170 miles, so that would make it 670 miles by that route. There will be plenty of feed in the spring.

Yours &c., D. F. Richards.

From the Nebraska News, Jan. 1, 1859.

The convictions of the sanguine, the speculations of the theorist, the evident teachings of geology, the dreams of those who would "haste to be rich," the conjectures of Major Gilpin, than whom none other is better qualified to write upon the resources and capacities of the great interior plains, and who has given it as his opinion that gold will yet be found there in solid mass, seem all destined soon to be realized, to be reduced to a fixed, tangible, positive, undeniable fact, to be brought from the domains of fiction into the fields of experimental, veritable reality. The fine gold must soon give way to the palpable nuggets, the unerring indices of the fertile and rich bearing quarts.

And they are no longer to be dreamed of, or written about by editors, as among the possible things to take place. They *have been found* on Thompson's river, near Cherry creek. They have found

their way to the settlements, and are adding fuel to the already intensely heated flame of excitement.

We noticed last week that the Palmetto *Kanzan* stated that a Mr. Blackstone, a wagon-master in the employ of Russell, Majors & Waddell, had returned with numerous specimens of coarse gold, picked up on a tributary of the Platte. Since the time of his arrival several persons have arrived at Plattsmouth and Pacific city, bringing with them numerous specimens—glorious, golden nuggets! Our fellow-citizen, Judge Bennet, saw one of the specimens containing $19.00, picked up from among others scattered around miscellaneously and loosely. The judge gives full credence to the statements made by those returning with these specimens, and all must now admit the positive, inexhaustible richness of the Nebraska gold mines. Scarce no work has been done in the mines, and but little real exploration or prospecting.

We set down the richness of the Nebraska mines as reduced to a fixed fact, a positive certainty.

From the Nebraskian.

EDITOR OF THE NEBRASKIAN:

Capt. Preston and myself, just prior to his departure for the mines, talked of taking out a stock of goods and groceries next spring. A definite arrangement was postponed, and made contingent upon his personal examination of the field of operations, and his letter was only intended to furnish the information due me on that subject and not for publication. I only need say to those unacquainted with Capt. Preston, that he is a man of the strictest veracity.

E. LOWE.

WINTER QUARTERS, Nov. 19, 1858.

DR. E. LOWE:

Dear Sir:—I wrote to my brother soon after we arrived here, and gave what little information, in regard to the country and its resources, I had received up to that time, and requested him to show the letter to you. Since that time I have learned but little in addition. Most of the time since we arrived has been spent preparing our winter quarters, and hunting for our winter's stores, so that as yet we have had but little time to prospect. The winter has been very fine most of the time since we arrived, and if it continues we

shall commence mining immediately. I have visited the mines on the Platte, about four miles above the mouth of Cherry creek where they are worked quite extensively. One man professed to have taken out in three days $65 and in one day $85. Most of them were not very communicative, which was good evidence that they were doing well. As near as I could learn they were making from $2.50 to $10, and some $15 per day. They are now opening mines for several miles above, but how they are doing I have not learned. I have met and conversed with several men who have spent the greater part of last summer prospecting, and they give very favorable accounts of the country's resources. Where gold is as generally distributed over the country as it is here, there must be some very rich head quarters. By sinking to the bed rock almost anywhere in this vicinity, gold is found. All the gold found on this side of the mountains is scale gold, but those who have prospected over in the parks about the head waters of the Platte and Arkansas, say that they find the shot gold there.

I have not the least idea but that this will prove to be a very rich mining region. I hardly know what to advise in regard to bringing a stock of goods out here in the spring. Quite a supply is needed now, and a very large one will be needed in the spring. I suppose that one-third of the masses are now out of sugar, and a great many out of coffee and a thousand little things that almost everybody forgets. The only objection to bringing out a stock of goods is that the market will probably be overstocked. Selling goods and saw-milling will probably be the two kinds of business overdone.

Flour can be brought in from New Mexico cheaper than it can be transported from the States. Bacon will be in good demand. Whisky is at present in the greatest demand. Williams, I understand has been offered $17 per gallon for his whisky, (common 17 cent whisky at that.) An old mountaineer named Smith sold over $500 worth out of one barrel. Should you conclude to send out a stock we will stand an equal chance with others, the risk will probably be not very great.

There is no doubt of the richness of the mining region, and the emigration in the spring will be tremendous.

We shall have a monthly express to Fort Laramie during the winter. All trains from Omaha and the Northern route have made better time than by any other route. If it had not been for the loss of our cattle, our train would have made Cherry creek in at least thirty days, and our cattle would have been in almost as good con-

dition as when we started; while mule trains from Leavenworth were forty-three days out, and say that the distance is not less than 800 miles.

All well. Yours respectfully, M. G. Preston.

From the Omaha Times.

It has been said that "Mormons, like buffaloes and Indians, always choose the shortest and best routes." To those who are at all acquainted with the admirable organization and perfect order which prevails among them, this adage needs no support. Trusty emissaries (men who have been on the frontier from their boyhood) were sent out by Brigham Young for the purpose of getting information, which would enable him to choose the best route from the Missouri to Salt Lake; and after every possible and impossible route had been thoroughly explored and measured—after routes, crooked and straight, had been explored from every point on the Missouri river, from Kansas city to Sioux city—after he had been made thoroughly acquainted with the face of the country, the distances, and the advantages and disadvantages incidental to all the routes—the shrewd and wily leader, who had more at stake than any other man who ever crossed the western prairies, chose the *north Platte route*. The speed and safety with which he and his followers traversed it, show that he gave the subject that careful consideration which its great importance demanded, and attest that in making the selection, he exercised great sagacity and prudence, which only a thorough knowledge of the country would enable him to bring into use.

Read the annexed extract from the report of Lieut. Warren, U. S. Topographical Engineers, which we published last week, but did not issue copies enough to supply the demand:

"Of all the valleys of rivers running into the Missouri, that of the Platte furnishes the best route for any kind of a road leading to the interior, and the *best point of starting is* Omaha City. An appropriation of $50,000 has been expended on bridges, etc., on the eastern portion of it, and the only important improvement to make it far superior to any route on the south side of the Platte, is the establishment of a good crossing of Loupe Fork, either by bridge or ferry, both of which are difficult; the first on account of the width of the stream—one hundred yards—and the latter on account of shoals and shifting sandbars. The ford is bad, by reason of quicksands.

$25,000 would probably make a good crossing to this stream, as the place is within the limit of the settlements. No road improved in the West would be of greater value to the emigrant or to military operations; and this once done, the route would not only be the shortest in this latitude, from the Missouri to the mountains, but would not, throughout, have any serious obstacle all the way to the South Pass. Any route that takes the south side of the Platte river has the south fork to cross, (which is about as difficult a stream as the Loupe Fork), where bridging it or establishing a ferry, is at this time, impracticable; the road then, along the north fork has bad places at Ash Hollow and Scott's Bluffs, and has to cross the Laramie river and the north fork of Platte by bridges, over which the emigrant has to pay toll. The route by the north side of Platte, crossing the Loupe Fork, is therefore of particular value, especially for early travel in the spring, when the streams are generally high."

Letter from Wm. N. Byers.

GOLD QUARTZ DISCOVERED BETWEEN THE "FORKS" OF THE PLATTE.

Omaha, Jan. 26, 1859.

Jno. H. Kellom, Esq.,

Dear Sir:—It may interest you to learn that a party came in yesterday from the mines, having left the Gold Region Dec. 19. They brought *specimens of very rich gold quartz*, which are on exhibition here. This quartz is pronounced full as rich in gold as the very richest ever found in California; and from my experience as a miner, I should think it was.

Gold quartz has been found on Long's Creek, Thompson's Creek, and Cache a la Poudre River.

The pioneer of a party of 60 from Savannah, Mo., 13 miles below St. Joseph, arrived here the 24th to secure outfits for the balance of the company, who will be here in a few days on their way to the mines.

Great inquiry is made for our Guide Book—hasten its publication.

Yours truly, Wm. N. Byers.

REMARKS.

Wm. N. Byers, one of the editors of this book, and a practical surveyor, having superior instruments for determining altitudes, latitudes, etc., will leave for the mines in March, for the purpose of exploring the mountain parks, and, if possible, discover the gold quartz in *position*. He will take notes by the way, correct all errors in distances, make a map of the gold region, and describe new, shorter and better routes, if any,—all of which will appear in the second edition of this work.

TWO NEW PAMPHLETS.

While this work is going through the press, we notice two small pamphlets on the gold mines, one printed in Lawrence, Kansas, recommending that city as the great outfit depot, and the *southern route* as the *best!* The other issues from Pacific City, a small, newly-born but pleasant town in Western Iowa, on the Missouri. Both works are exclusive and sectional. Each has an ax to grind,—a town to advertise, and its favorite route to commend.

OUR BOOK.

In our book we have tried to be impartial, giving many routes, but all converging at Fort Kearney. We cannot recommend the southern routes. The *shortest land travel*, all other things being equal, must commend itself to every emigrant. Here is the map, and here are the facts, the geography and the figures: examine them and decide for yourselves.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, we would say to all who go to the mines, especially to the young, *Yield not to temptation*. Carry your principles with you; leave not your character at home, nor your Bible; you will need them both, and even *grace* from above, to protect you in a community whose god is Mammon, who are wild with excitement, and free from family restraints.

A CARD.

I design spending the present year in the Nebraska Gold Mines; letters of inquiry or business, addressed to me at Fort Laramie, Nebraska, after March next, will receive careful attention and prompt replies.

Wm. N. Byers.

CITY BOOK STORE,

By X. W. KYNETT,

LOWER BROADWAY,

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA.

Constantly in store, at wholesale and retail, a large stock of Standard Works, in every department of Science and Literature.

BIBLES, HYMN BOOKS, SCHOOL BOOKS, LAW, MEDICAL & THEOLOGICAL BOOKS.

Blank Work and Stationery of all kinds. Wall and Window Paper, Printing and Wrapping Paper, Violin and Guitar Strings, Toys, Inks, Children's Books, &c.

Also for sale, by the single number, month or year, all the leading Magazines and Newspapers of the country. Also, a large assortment of

CHEAP PUBLICATIONS.

TERMS CASH.

MILTON ROGERS,

NOS. 16 & 18 UPPER BROADWAY,

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TEN THOUSAND EMIGRANTS FOR THE GOLD REGIONS!

CAN BE SUPPLIED WITH

Sheet Iron Cook Stoves, Gold Rockers, Mining or Gold Pans of Tin or Russia Iron, Camp Kettles, Long Toms, Pumps, Iron Skillets and Bake Kettles,

SHOVELS, PICKS & SPADES,

Russia Sheet Iron, American Iron, Tin Plate, Copper and Tinners' Stock, and every description of Stoves.

☞ All who wish to purchase are invited to come and save their money.

PRICES AS LOW AS THE EASTERN MARKET.

NEW STORE IN COUNCIL BLUFFS,

AT VOORHIS'S OLD STAND.

FREDERICK SHEBLE, JR.

Has opened a large and magnificent stock of all kinds of Goods. To those going to the Mines, I would say, give me a call, as I am prepared to furnish ENTIRE OUTFITS at low prices for CASH. My stock consists of Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps, Ready Made Clothing, Wines, Liquors, &c. Provisions, Flour, Meal, Bacon, &c.

☞ I can offer my Goods at such prices that will pay the buyer to call and examine my stock, as I am determined not to be undersold.

JOHN W. ROSS, Agent,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

Dry Goods, Groceries, Provisions, Queensware, Glassware, Hardware, Dried & Fresh Can Fruits, and Fancy Groceries of every description. A large Stock of choice Wines and Liquors. Also an extensive Stock of Mining Implements of all kinds. Also

150,000 lbs. Bacon. 500 Sugar cured Hams. 2000 sacks Flour, and 20,000 bushels Corn.

☞ Particular attention paid to outfitting Miners. ☜

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GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

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Has on hand Twenty Thousand Dollars worth of BOOTS, SHOES, HATS, CAPS, AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS.
Also, 50 bbls. each choice Brandy and Bourbon Whisky.

EMIGRANTS TO THE GOLD FIELDS, TAKE NOTICE.

WM. C. ANDRUS,

WHOLESALE & RETAIL GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER,

ALSO—CHOICE WINES, LIQUORS AND FANCY GROCERIES,

Will sell to Emigrants and Traders on better terms than can be had at any other House. Call and examine my heavy Stock of

PROVISIONS AND GROCERIES.

Remember the place,

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OUTFITTING DEPOT FOR MINERS AND EMIGRANTS.

MAY & WEIL,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Ready Made Clothing,

BOOTS, SHOES, GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS. Also

INDIA RUBBER GOODS OF EVERY VARIETY.

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HARDWARE, CUTLERY, MECHANICS' TOOLS, IRON, STEEL,

Nails, Saws, and Builders' Material.

—ALSO—

A COMPLETE ASSORTMENT OF TOOLS FOR GOLD MINING.

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Gold Dust Bought. Collections made at current rates of Exchange. Exchange on all the principal Cities in the Union bought and sold. Land Warrants bought and sold, and entered on time.

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☞Particular attention given to the location of Land Warrants in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, and the purchase and sale of Real Estate generally.

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Attorney at Law, Land Agent and Conveyancer,

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PIONEER STOVE STORE.

ROYAL D. AMY,

SIGN OF THE COFFEE BOILER, LOWER BROADWAY,

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Outfits for 20,000 Cherry Creek Miners! Camp Stoves, Camp Kettles, Gold Washers, Gold Riddles, Copper Boilers, Fry Pans, Plates, Cups, and in fact every thing for the Plains, in my line.

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Largest Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Western Iowa, in Foreign and Domestic

GROCERIES, WINES, LIQUORS

AND PROVISIONS,

JAMES' BLOCK, LOWER BROADWAY,

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HO! FOR CHERRY CREEK!

E. KNABE,

Has the largest stock of SADDLES, BRIDLES, HARNESS, and everything in that line, on the Upper Missouri River.

The attention of Emigrants and Miners is especially invited to my large and superior Stock of outfitting Goods in the above line. All my Goods are manufactured in my own shop, and warranted the best of materials and workmanship.

Shop on South side of Lower Broadway,

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA.

COUNCIL BLUFFS'

BOOT, SHOE, AND LEATHER STORE.

J. M. PHILLIPS & CO.

Have on hand and are constantly receiving a large assortment of Boots, Shoes, Rubbers, Leather and Shoe Findings of every description. Our stock of Boots suitable for Miners is complete. As we do our own manufacturing in the East, we are enabled to sell at a small advance on Eastern prices. ☞ The highest market price paid in cash for Hides.

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COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA,

JOHN JONES, PROPRIETOR.

This large and commodious Hotel is situated in the business portion of the City. The patronage of the traveling public is respectfully solicited, believing that it offers superior accommodations.

F. GEESAMAN & CO.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA,

Invite the attention of the public to their extensive stock of Drugs, Medicines, Liquors, Tobacco, Cigars, &c.

All of which will be put up in the most commodious style and on reasonable terms for emigrants. CALL AND SEE.

JOHN O'DONNELL,

MIDDLE BROADWAY,

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA,

Is prepared with the most ample facilities to do Blacksmithing, in all its branches, on the most liberal and satisfactory terms.

ALL KINDS OF MATERIAL CONSTANTLY ON HAND.

Work promptly performed and warranted to suit or no charge.

ISAAC R. ALDEN. S. H. CRAIG.

ALDEN & CRAIG,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, GLASS AND QUEENSWARE,

AND ALL KINDS OF

California, Pike's Peak and Salt Lake Outfitting Goods.

We are prepared to offer inducements to emigrants and other classes of buyers, not to be found elsewhere on the Missouri slope.

No. 3 Phœnix Block, Broadway,

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA.

STEAM FERRY.

COUNCIL BLUFFS AND OMAHA CITY.

"Nebraska No. 1."

The Steam Ferry Boat, "NEBRASKA NO. 1," has the capacity to carry 12 wagons and teams at each trip, and

Has taken over at one Load 300 Head of Cattle!

AND CAN MAKE FROM

THIRTY TO FORTY CROSSINGS EACH WAY IN A DAY!

And 400 Wagons and Teams

Can be ferried over from sun-rise to sun-set each day.

We assure travelers who are going to the Nebraska Gold Mines, Utah, California, Oregon, or Washington Territory, that the roads from Fairfield, Iowa City, Dubuque, and intermediate points, by Council Bluffs and Omaha City, up the north side of the Platte River, are shorter, better and more abundantly stocked with everything needed by emigrants for outfits than any other. Settlements and towns already extend to Fort Kearney, and with the regular running of the

United States Mail Coaches

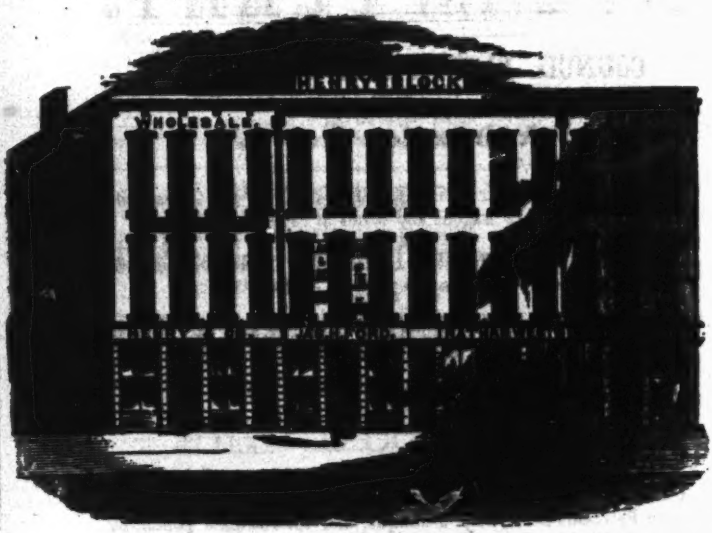
to that point, it is no longer a wilderness route through an Indian country. It can be traveled as safely and comfortably, and much more easily than any of the roads through Missouri or Iowa. There is not another road in the United States, of the same length, so nearly straight, level, and without marshes, sloughs, or bad places of any kind.

E. LOWE,

For the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry Co.

JANUARY 1st, 1859.

NEBRASKA DRUG AND CHEMICAL HOUSE.



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Paints, Oils, Dye Stuffs, Varnish, Window Glass, Sash, Putty, Wines, Liquors, Tobacco and Cigars.

AGENTS FOR ALL THE POPULAR PATENT MEDICINES OF THE DAY.

Medicine Chests prepared expressly for those going to the Mines, containing a full assortment of Medicines suited to the climate.

The largest stock of Fine Brandies, Wines and Whisky in the North-West always on hand.

Having purchased my Goods in New York, Boston and Pittsburgh, for Cash, I am enabled and determined to sell lower than any other House above St. Louis.

1859. **TOOTLE & JACKSON,** 1859.

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DRY GOODS,

HARDWARE,

GROCERIES,

BOOTS, SHOES,

HATS,

CAPS,

NAILS, CUTLERY,

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GLASSWARE,

READY-MADE

CLOTHING,

FURNITURE,

PLOWS,

Also, TENTS, WAGON COVERS, PICKS, LONG TOMS, and in fact, every thing necessary for fitting out miners.

☞ We beg leave to call the attention of every one going to the Mines, to an examination of our stock. We feel confident that we can sell better goods and at as low prices as they can be bought this side of St. Louis or Chicago, as

WE SELL ONLY FOR CASH DOWN.

TOOTLE & JACKSON.

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Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

STAPLE & FANCY DRY GOODS,

HARDWARE,

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BOOTS AND SHOES,

AND A

GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF

OUTFITS FOR MINERS

FARNHAM STREET,

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RECEIVING, FORWARDING AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

STEAM BOAT AND GENERAL AGENTS,

SOUTH LEVEE, - - - OMAHA CITY, N. T.

Special attention given to the sale of Bacon, Flour, Whisky and Merchandise generally, and to the purchase of Hides, Tallow and Produce.

FORWARDING ATTENDED TO WITH PROMPTNESS AND DISPATCH.

☞ To avoid unnecessary delay and ensure quick transit, Merchants, Emigrants and Traders for the Gold Mines should mark Packages Care J. A. H. & CO., Omaha.

REFERENCES.

Douglas, Gazzam & Co.	St. Louis.
Phillips & Co.	"
Wall & Widen,	"
Fife & Michael,	"
Shipman & Carter,	St. Joseph.
H. R. Hammond,	"

Officers of the Missouri River Packets, and business men of Omaha generally.

J. W. PADDOCK,

DEALER IN

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LEATHER AND FINDINGS,

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MINERS' BOOTS,

A NEW AND SUPERIOR ARTIOLE,

On hand and made to order,—to which the inspection of emigrants is invited.

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FARNHAM STREET, CORNER FOURTEENTH.

DEALERS IN

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,

READY-MADE CLOTHING,

BOOTS & SHOES, HATS & CAPS, INDIA RUBBER GOODS,

And a general assortment of

MINERS' OUTFITTING GOODS

Particular attention will be given to customers, to inform and assist them in obtaining everything required by the Miner, of the best quality, and at the cheapest rates.

C. W. HAMILTON & CO.

H. B. PORTER. H. W. BREMEN.

PORTER & BREMEN,

GENERAL STEAMBOAT AGENTS,

Forwarding and Commission Merchants,

☞ Warehouse on the Levee. OMAHA CITY, N. T.

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JAMES K. WALL,

MANUFACTURER OF BOOTS & SHOES,

Douglas Street, four doors west of the Post Office,

Keeps constantly on hand a supply of home-made Boots and Shoes, and manufactures to order on the most reasonable terms.

Miners' Grain and Kip Prairie Sole Boots; also, Miners' Rubber Boots,

Of the best quality, always on hand and FOR SALE CHEAP.

OMAHA CITY DRUG STORE.

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Wholesale and Retail Druggists.

ASSORTED MEDICINES CAREFULLY PREPARED,

In cases suitable for emigrants.

QUICKSILVER, PURE WINES AND LIQUORS, ETC.

GOLD SCALES.

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DEALERS IN

AMERICAN, ENGLISH AND GERMAN

HARDWARE AND CUTLERY.

Always on hand a large assortment of

COLLINS', BEATTY'S AND SIMMON'S GOLD PICKS,

Ames' and other makes of

MINERS' CAST STEEL SHOVELS AND SPADES,

Gold Rockers, Pans, and every description of Hardware necessary for a Miner's complete outfit, constantly on hand and for sale at reasonable rates.

☞South side Farnham Street, Omaha.☜

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GROCERS & PROVISION MERCHANTS,

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SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO

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H. W. TUTTLE. T. MARTIN. T. BUSH.

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DEALERS IN

DRUGS, MEDICINES,

PAINTS, OILS, WINDOW GLASS,

STATIONERY, PERFUMERY AND FANCY ARTICLES,

Also a complete assortment of

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS,

Consisting of everything necessary for outfits for emigrants to

THE GOLD FIELDS OF WESTERN NEBRASKA.

MILTON ROGERS,

PIONEER BLOCK, · · · OMAHA CITY, N. T.

Ten Thousand Emigrants for Cherry Creek

Can be supplied with

OUTFITS FOR THE GOLD REGIONS.

Among my stock will be found

Camp Stoves, Camp Kettles, Gold Washers, Gold Rockers, Long Toms, Picks, Shovels, Spades, Dutch Ovens and Skillets,

RUSSIA, ENGLISH AND AMERICAN IRON,

Tin Plate, Pressed Bottoms and Covers, Sheet Copper and Tinners' Stock,

AT ST. LOUIS PRICES.

HURFORD & BROTHER,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in all kinds of

Hardware and Agricultural Implements,

Have taken especial care, since the Gold discoveries, to be well and fully supplied with all the necessaries, in their line, to enable persons to get to the mines comfortably, and to dig gold successfully after they arrive there. Their stock consists in part of

PICKS

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